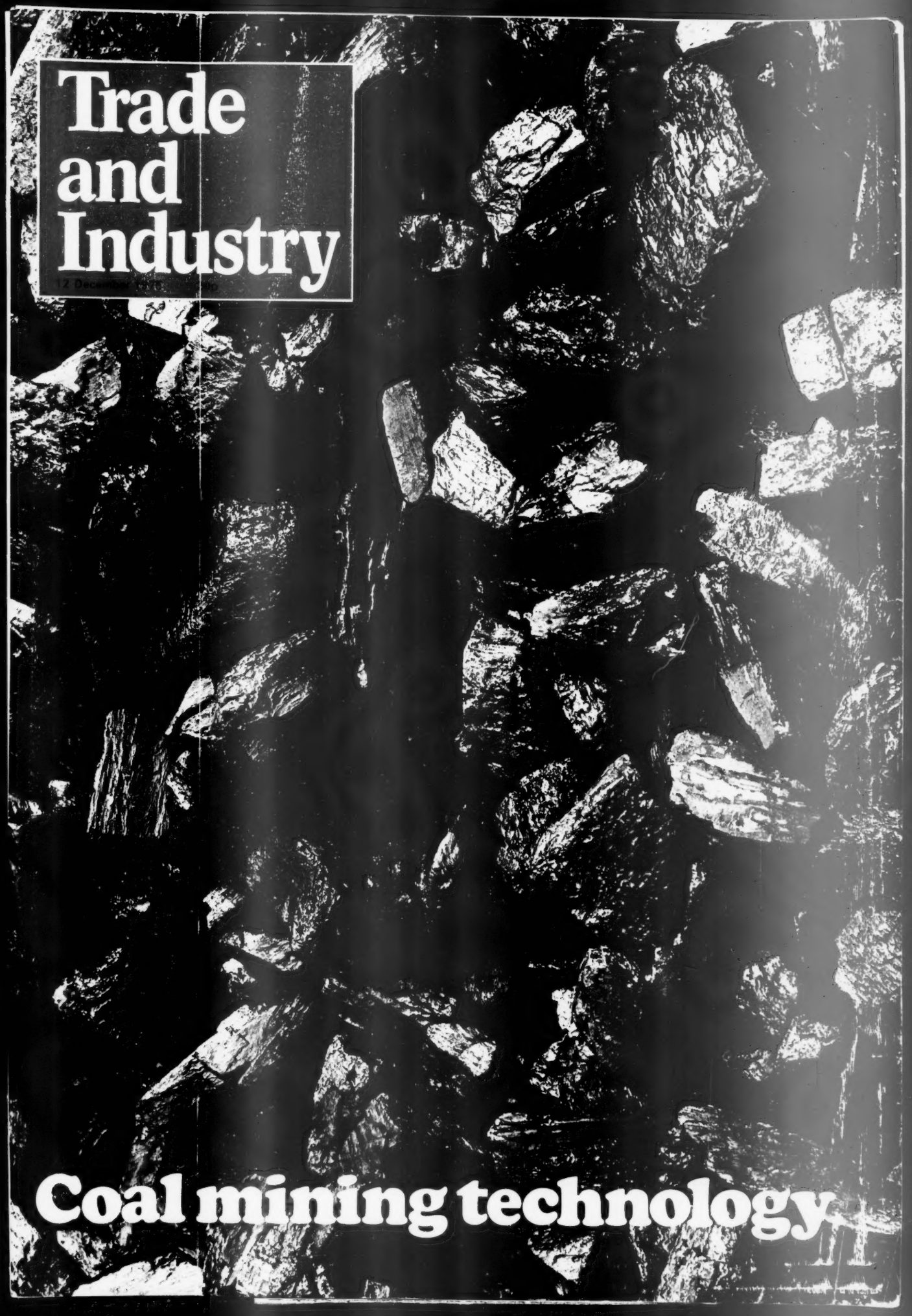
Trade and Industry
12 December 1973
Coal mining technology

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12 December 1975

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# Home News

## New appointments at Department of Industry

Among new ministerial appointments announced by the Cabinet Office on 4 December was that of Gerald Kaufman (formerly Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State) as Minister of State, Department of Industry, in place of Lord Beswick. Two new Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State at the Department of Industry were announced: Lord Melchett (centre) and Neil Carmichael (right). Lord Beswick is to be appointed Chairman of the Organising Committee for British Aerospace and, in due course, Chairman of the Board of British Aerospace. John Smith becomes Minister of State, Department of Energy in place of Lord Balogh, who has resigned from the Government on reaching 70. Mr. Smith's place as Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Energy, is taken by Lord Lovell-Davis. Mr. Smith now has special responsibility for the execution of the North Sea oil operation.

## Extension of the restrictive practices legislation to services

Registration with the Office of Fair Trading of restrictive agreements relating to the supply and acquisition of virtually the whole range of commercial services will be required under a draft Order laid before Parliament by Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, and published 9 December. The proposed date of operation is 22 March 1976.

The draft Order, which is the first to be made under Section 107 of the Fair Trading Act 1973, excludes certain kinds of agreements which are already subject to control or supervision or which present problems of jurisdiction. The draft Order was settled in the light of representations received from trade associations and individual firms in response to a notice on the scope of the proposed Order which was published (in pursuance of Section 111 (2) of the Act) in *Trade and Industry*, 22 August 1974.

Until the Order comes into operation, no obligation to register particulars of agreements about services arises. Registrable agreements existing at the date on which the Order comes into operation will have to be registered within three months from that date unless they are brought to an end beforehand. After the date of operation, new agreements will have to be registered before they take effect and, in any event, within three months from the date of their making.

## Biscuits to be packed in prescribed weights

Prepacked biscuits are to be made up in prescribed weights in a process to be completed by 1 January 1978. Ultimate metrication of biscuits and shortbread is also heralded in a draft Order laid before Parliament by Alan Williams, Minister of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, on 8 December.

In a statement issued by the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection, Mr. Williams says: 'The 21 existing pack sizes between 3 oz and 8 oz will be reduced initially to six metric sizes, and later to five. This will significantly assist shoppers trying to make value for money judgements. I hope that even further rationalisation will be possible at a later date, but I consider it important at this stage not to press rationalisation to the point where the consumer would be faced with higher prices and industry with extra costs.'

Biscuits will be the first product to be added to the list of shopping bag items prepacked in specified quantities since the present Weights and Measures Act was passed in 1963.

Copies of the Weights and Measures Act 1963 (Biscuits and Shortbread) Order 1975 may be obtained from HM Stationery Office, or through booksellers, price 12p.

# Peter Shore announces membership of Committee of Inquiry on Industrial Democracy

Peter Shore, Secretary of State for Trade, has announced the membership of the Committee of Inquiry on Industrial Democracy under the chairmanship of Sir Alan Bullock.

Replying, on 3 December, to a question in Parliament by Ian Wrigglesworth (Teesside, Thornaby) about the membership of the Committee, Mr. Shore said:

'The chairman of the Committee will be Sir Alan Bullock, Master of St. Catherine's College, Oxford. The members will be:

Professor George Bain, Director of the Industrial Relations Research Unit for the University of Warwick.

Mr. N. P. Biggs, Chairman of Williams and Glyn's Bank Ltd.

Sir Jack Callard,

Mr. Barrie Heath, Chairman of Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds Ltd.

Mr. Clive Jenkins, General Secretary of the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs.

Mr. Jack Jones, General Secretary of the Transport and General Workers Union.

Mr. David Lea, Secretary, Economic Department, Trades Union Congress.

Mr. John Methven, Director-General of Fair Trading.

Professor K. W. Wedderburn, Cassel Professor of Commercial Law in the University of London (London School of Economics).

Mr. N. S. Wilson, Solicitor.'

**Notes**

The Secretary of State announced his decision to set up an independent Committee of Inquiry in a statement to the House of Commons on 5 August. He said that the Committee would have the task of advising the Government on 'questions relating to representation at board level in the private sector', and would have the following terms of reference:

'Accepting the need for a radical extension of industrial democracy in the control of companies by means of representation on boards of directors, and accepting the essential role of trade union organisations in this process, to consider how such an extension can best be achieved, taking into account in particular the proposals of the Trades Union Congress report on industrial democracy as well as experience in Britain, the EEC and other countries. Having regard to the interest of the national economy, employees, investors and consumers, to analyse the implications of such representation for the efficient management of companies and for company law.'

The Committee has been asked to report within 12 months so that legislation can be placed before Parliament during the 1976-77 Parliamentary session.

The Committee will be holding its first meeting as soon as possible and will be announcing soon an address to which interested bodies should send evidence. In his statement of 5 August Mr. Shore urged interested parties to begin preparing their evidence right away.

## Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor should be addressed to the Editor, *Trade and Industry*, Room 437, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET, and *not* to HMSO.

# Strategic plan for the North West: Government response

The Government has accepted the broad conclusion of the Strategic Plan for the North West, published last year, that the best way of tackling the employment and environmental problems of the region is by concentrating on solving them where they arise, which is mainly in the 'Mersey Belt' – broadly Merseyside, Greater Manchester and the area between them.

The Government Response to the strategic plan, published on 8 December, says the Government considers that employment and environmental problems are closely interlocked and should be dealt with by policies operating on a broad front aimed at improving the economic, physical and social conditions of old industrial areas.

The Response stresses that the Government will continue to give priority to the provision of more and better quality jobs, both to relieve unemployment in the North West and to help check the continuing loss of an undue proportion of young and better-educated people from the region. A specific recommendation in the Strategic Plan for a 'labour subsidy' has already been met, since the Regional Employment Premium has been retained and was doubled in August 1974. The new Industry Act will enable present industrial development policies for Assisted Areas (which cover the whole of the North West) to be intensified.

The Government accepts the recommendation that the effectiveness of the new incentives for relocation of office employment (introduced in June 1973) and general office location policies should be kept under review. North West regional output from the current national expansion of the Training Opportunities Scheme will rise substantially in 1976. Means to help workers to move to new jobs are already under review.

**Environment**

The Response recognises that much has been and is being done to tackle the particular problems of older industrial towns and inner city areas in the North West, but that much more remains to be done. Insufficient priority has been accorded in the past to the problems of outworn urban areas.

New location room at the Department of Industry's North West regional office at Manchester. The picture was taken when the room was unveiled to local authority chief executives during a two-day visit to the region last week by Gregor MacKenzie, Minister of State for Industry (seated on the right on the far side of the table). George Salt, head of region's location section, is demonstrating the use of the large steel maps, which have magnetic symbols. The room, which is also equipped with charts and other visual aids, will be used for briefing visiting industrialists on the advantages of the North West.

# Short cut to information on manufacturing companies in Scotland.

The Scottish Council has compiled a comprehensive bank of information concerning manufacturing companies in Scotland.

There are 7 lists altogether and two monthly publications.

By filling in this coupon and posting it to us, this data is available to you.

Simply put a tick in the box next to the list you would like.

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**2.** GEOGRAPHICAL The same 3500 companies allocated to local authority districts and regions. **£25.00**

**3.** PRODUCT The companies are listed under 126 product categories (as in Standard Industrial Classification). **£25.00**

**4.** US COMPANIES Full details of all the US companies manufacturing in Scotland including name of parent company, products manufactured and full details of the Scottish establishment. **£6.00**

**5.** EUROPEAN COMPANIES Full details of all the European companies manufacturing in Scotland including name of parent company, products manufactured and full details of the Scottish establishment. **£3.00**

**6.** ELECTRONICS AND ALLIED INDUSTRIES Details of companies, product lines and name of executive contact. **£4.50**

**7.** 1000 EMPLOYEES AND OVER Details of manufacturing companies in Scotland with more than 1000 employees. **£4.00**

**8.** SCOTTISH NEWS BULLETIN A monthly publication giving details of new companies in Scotland: Expansions, contracts, closures, etc. **£20.00** (for 12 months).

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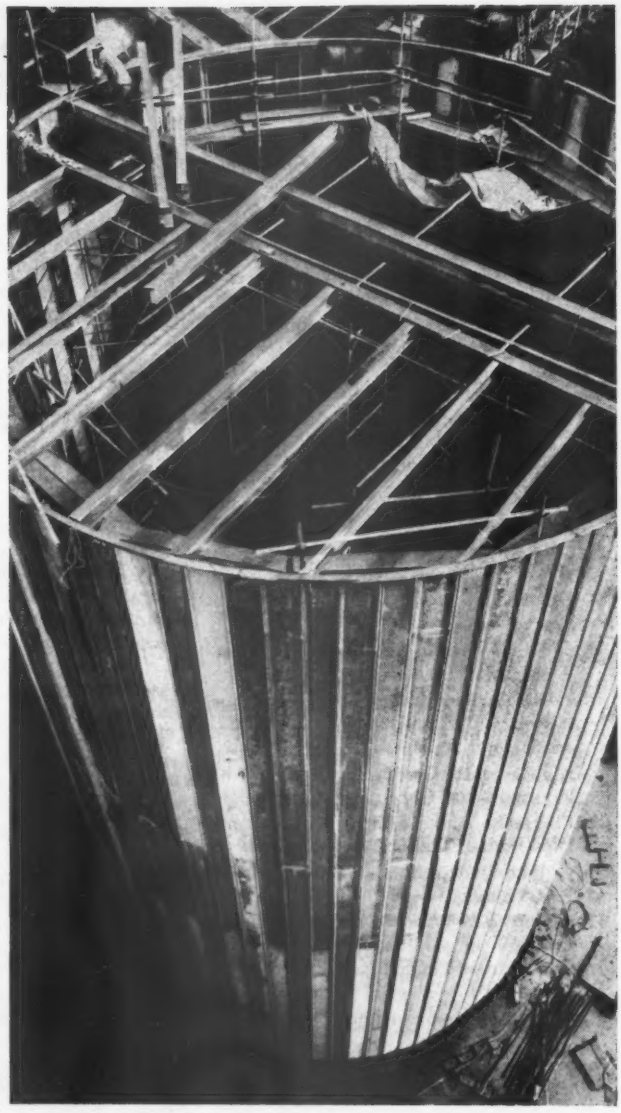

One of two 2,350 ton capacity silos for storing hot clinker, built in New Zealand by J. T. Mackley & Co. Ltd., Henfield, Sussex. The silos form part of new extensions to the Westport Cement Works on the west coast of New Zealand and are the first straight web silos to be built in the country. Mackleys designed, fabricated and test assembled the 66 ft high and 37.03 ft diameter silos at their Henfield works before sending them to New Zealand by container. A Mackley engineer supervised the erection of the silos on site using local labour and plant. The silos are constructed on reinforced concrete foundations which include a discharge tunnel below ground. Negotiations are under way for Mackleys to build similar systems on a larger scale in the Middle East, Jamaica and the EEC countries.


## Advertising in 'Hints to Business Men' booklets

Advertising in the 'Hints to Business Men' series of booklets is now being handled by Cheiron Press Ltd. of 8/10 Parkway, London NW1 7AD (tel. 01-267 1285) and not by Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

Export Services and Promotions Division, Department of Trade, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (tel. 01-248 5757 ext. 7115) will deal with inquiries relating to advertisements already confirmed through Her Majesty's Stationery Office. All other communications regarding advertising should be referred to Cheiron Press Ltd.

**Development**

The aspect of the Plan which has aroused most public discussion, says the Response, is the recommendation that the main emphasis for development should lie in the Mersey Belt. The Government concludes that this emphasis, which accords with the view of the majority of local authorities in the region, is correct. This endorsement does not, however, deny that other parts of the region also experience severe problems: these are already recognised in existing Government policies for the Assisted Areas, which embrace the whole region and which will remain in force unchanged.

The Secretary of State for the Environment is currently considering the Inspector's report on the recent public inquiry into the Outline Plan for the new town. Meantime the Government has noted that the Strategic Plan welcomed it as a major growth point in the late 1980s and 1990s, with a slower growth until then.

The Government considers that there is a need for more positive planning policies; and supports a green belt policy to guide and where appropriate limit development. It re-affirms the importance of safeguarding high-quality farmland.

It is at present out of the question to increase total resources to meet the needs of the North West. Such needs must be placed in a national context. The Government must weigh the relative claims of more rapidly growing areas with those of areas where renewal is the predominant need, and with the other competing calls on public expenditure.

Since the Strategic Plan was published, its suggestions for revising the distribution of the Rate Support Grant in favour of older urban areas have been partially met by the Government. The Layfield Committee on Local Government Finance is currently examining the whole field and it would be inappropriate therefore for the Government to respond in detail to the recommendations on resources. The Government recognises, however, the needs of the North West region, particularly for the renewal of outworn urban areas. These will be borne in mind in the light of national economic circumstances.

'*Strategic Plan for the North West – Government Response*' is available from the Department of the Environment at Sunley Buildings, Piccadilly Plaza, Manchester M1 4BE or (DPRS6) Room C11/21, 2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 3EB.

## New factories for rural areas

John Silkin, Minister for Planning and Local Government, announced on 4 December that the Development Commission is to build 16 small factories in areas of rural depopulation as part of the £20 million job-creation programme announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 24 September. The new factories will total about 53,000 sq. ft of space, and they could provide about 200 jobs.

The location and size of the factories will be:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| NORTH | | |
| Millom | Cumbria | 5,000 sq. ft |
| Kirkby Stephen | Cumbria | 5,000 sq. ft |
| Flookburgh | Cumbria | 3,000 sq. ft |
| Berwick, Northumberland | | 10,000 sq. ft (single or terrace units) |
| NORTH WEST | | |
| Hornby, Lancashire | | 2 × 1,500 sq. ft |
| YORKSHIRE – HUMBERSIDE | | |
| Leeming Bar, North Yorkshire | | 2 × 2,500 sq. ft |
| SOUTH WEST | | |
| Okehampton, Devon | | 2 × 3,000 sq. ft<br>4 × 1,500 sq. ft |
| WEST MIDLANDS | | |
| Church Stretton | Salop | 5,000 sq. ft |
| Market Drayton | Salop | 5,000 sq. ft |

On 28 November, Gregor MacKenzie, Minister of State for Industry, gave details of a programme of advance factories (see last week's *Trade and Industry*, page 606) estimated to cost about £9 million and to provide about 3,500 jobs, which would be built as part of the £20 million job-creation scheme. The factories to be built by the Development Commission are additional to the Department of Industry's programme.

The Development Commission is responsible for recommending the use of money from the Development Fund established by an Act of 1909. Advances from the Fund are made by the Secretary of State for the Environment on the recommendation of the Development Commissioners. The Fund is used for purposes which benefit the rural economy and communities, with particular emphasis on rural areas with problems of depopulation and employment difficulties, where programmes of small factory construction are financed. The factories announced will be built in such areas and like the Department of Industry factories will be built on land readily available to the Commission so as to ensure early building starts and contribute at an early date to the provision of employment.

The English Industrial Estates Corporation act as the Development Commission's agents for the construction of factories in the assisted areas; elsewhere the Council for Small Industries in Rural Areas (COSIRA) act as agents. Development Commission factories are very small, often in nursery units of 1,500 to 3,000 sq. ft and only exceptionally greater than 10,000 sq. ft.

## Information digest on offshore supplies

An information digest on 'The Offshore Supply Market with special reference to Yorkshire and Humberside Industry' has been compiled by the Department of Industry regional office at Leeds.

The object of the 162-page digest is to help firms to help themselves, by providing information to assist their sales and purchasing efforts. It provides guidance on names and addresses of many firms and some sources of information, but it does not claim to be a complete catalogue of firms, organisations or information.

The digest is available from Room 501, Department of Industry, Priestley House, Park Row, Leeds LS1 5LF, tel. (0532) 443171 ext. 242.

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INDUSTRIAL & COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

## Darjeeling Holdings Ltd.

Peter Shore, Secretary of State for Trade, has directed that ordinary shares of Darjeeling Holdings Ltd., owned by Fireball Ltd., be subject to restrictions under the provisions of Section 174 of the Companies Act 1948.

The direction includes restrictions on the transfer of the shares and the voting rights attached to them.

Inspectors appointed by Mr. Shore to investigate the affairs of Darjeeling Holdings Ltd., have been informed that the beneficial controller of Fireball Ltd. is not prepared to disclose his identity to them. Mr. Shore's action follows this development.

Fireball Ltd., a company registered in the Isle of Man, is shown to hold 2 million ordinary 5p shares, some 28 per cent of the ordinary share capital of Darjeeling Holdings Ltd.

The restrictions imposed by Section 174 are as follows:

1 any transfer of those shares, or in the case of unissued shares, any transfer of the right to be issued therewith and any issue thereof, shall be void;

2 no voting rights shall be exercisable in respect of those shares;

3 no further shares shall be issued in right of those shares or in pursuance of any offer made to the holder thereof;

4 except in a liquidation, no payment shall be made, of any sums due from the company on those shares, whether in respect of capital or otherwise.

## Clearance of merger proposals

Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection has decided, on the information at present before her not to refer the following proposed mergers to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission under the provisions of the Fair Trading Act 1973:

Pentos Holdings Ltd. and Marshall, Morgan and Scott Ltd.

Babcock and Wilcox Ltd. and American Chain and Cable Co. Inc.

## Restriction on insurance company rescinded

Peter Shore, Secretary of State for Trade, has rescinded a requirement made on 22 July 1974 under Section 13 (1) of the Insurance Companies Amendment Act 1973 preventing Shop and Warehouse Mutual Insurance Association Ltd. from taking on new business in Great Britain, or varying existing contracts.

# Stanley Clinton Davis addresses Financial Times World Insurance Conference

New Government regulations on the control of insurance company investments were foreshadowed by Stanley Clinton Davis, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Companies, Aviation and Shipping in a speech to the Financial Times Conference on World Insurance in London on 3 December. He also anticipated the Advisory Panel and new regulations strengthening the controls on the sale and advertising of insurance.

Although speaking primarily on the regulation of insurance, Mr. Clinton Davis stressed the importance of the industry, whose net overseas earnings are now running at £360 million a year, making it our seventh largest exporter.

**Investment**

Discussing the control of insurance company investments Mr. Clinton Davis said:

'We shall shortly be issuing detailed regulations the effect of which will be that only insurance companies with substantial free reserves will be able to afford to hold much in the way of "inadmissible" assets.

'The Department may also intervene directly and require changes in a company's portfolio where it considers that the investments held are not in the interest of policyholders, eg where the pattern of holdings contains a threat to solvency or liquidity.

'The long-standing freedom of insurers to invest in the ways they think appropriate to the needs of their business and in the interest of their policyholders has led to a wider spread of investments than may be found elsewhere. British insurers do have very large holdings of fixed interest securities, including much Government stock, but they have also invested substantially in housing loans and other mortgages, in property and in ordinary and preference shares in industry and commerce.

'There can be no doubt that in the recent past these differing approaches have been coming under careful scrutiny. Does the freedom of approach, which we practice, satisfactorily serve the public interest? I think that there are two aspects to this question. First we have the supervisor's point of view: are the assets acquired appropriate to the insurance company's liabilities?

'Then we have the wider public interest: does the pattern of investment assist the development of the national economy? The job of the Government and of the insurers is therefore to consider how best to reconcile these two paramount interests, which in my judgment are by no means necessarily in conflict.

'Some investment by some insurers in recent years has raised doubts of whether either of the two criteria, which I have mentioned, has been satisfied. For example, have the very large investments in property served the policyholders well or contributed to the national well being? Now property investment may be of various kinds – we cannot have productive industry unless we have factories to produce the goods and offices in which to administer businesses. There can be no doubt that insurance funds have been of inestimable value in providing them. But on the other hand were not *some* of the investments primarily speculative? Was that not the message of some of the get-rich-quick advertisements?

'Again, were not traditional fixed interest investments dressed up in tax avoidance clothes, until Denis Healey clamped down on them in his March 1974 Budget? One is entitled to ask how these developments were of value to our nation in its quest for greater industrial efficiency and productivity combined with the need for the creation of a fairer society.

'Having posed these questions, let no one under-estimate the part played by the insurers in support of national policy. Public priorities change from time to time and insurers therefore need to consider investment in support of various sectors of the economy, eg in recent years to provide finance for housing, or shipbuilding, or exports or for manufacturing industry.

'There has been much discussion in this country recently about the provisions of finance for manufacturing industry and it has been suggested that insurance companies should put more of their funds into industrial equities or other forms of finance for industrial development.

'The amounts for manufacturing are not shown separately, but international comparisons of investment in ordinary and preference shares are interesting. In 1973 the Conference of European Insurance Supervisory Services discussed a paper on insurance company investments which contained comparative figures for the years 1969, 1970 and 1971. The figures showed that in those years the total investments of the British industry were larger than those of any other European insurance industry, with Federal Germany in second place. The value of shares in companies held by British insurers in each of the three years, however, substantially exceeded the combined total holdings of insurers in the other 16 countries contributing to the study. The next largest holdings were by Federal Germany and by Italy, each with about 15 per cent of the British total. In terms of percentage of total investments shares represented 24 per cent for Britain, 5 per cent for Federal Germany and 26 per cent for Italy.

'More recent international comparisons are not available but our official figures show that British insurance companies continued to be large net investors in company securities in 1972 and 1973, and maintained the proportion of share to total investments.

'They were still net investors in 1974 in spite of the unusually difficult conditions in that year which reduced the value of existing holdings and thus the proportion they represented. There was some net disinvestment

in the last quarter of 1974 and first quarter of 1975 followed by resumed large scale net investment in the second quarter of this year.

'I have given some figures for shares; although not shown separately, holdings in manufacturing are known to be large. The future of this country, the standard of living of its people, and the interests of its insurance industry itself, is bound up with the regeneration of manufacturing industry and priority for investment in manufacturing is needed in our present circumstances.

'I am sure that these considerations weigh heavily with the insurance companies, and indeed, the need has been recognised. The insurance companies already provide funds for Finance for Industry, and, on the initiative of the Chairman of the British Insurance Association, a high-powered Working Party from the financial institutions has been set up to consider whether a new equity bank is needed to fill any gaps that may remain in the arrangements for providing equity capital to industry. Large additional sums might be provided in this way. We therefore await the report of the Working Party with great interest.'

**Disclosure of information**

Mr. Clinton Davis went on to discuss the question of disclosure of information and the strengthening of the controls on the sale and advertising of insurance policies:

'The principle of disclosure of information that has applied in this country to the financial affairs of insurance companies, for over a hundred years in the case of life assurance, is being extended to the area of insurance selling. Our objectives are that a person buying insurance should know the relationship of the salesman to the insurer and also the full nature of the insurance contract before entering into it.

'As a major step I shall be issuing general regulations very shortly that will require disclosure by intermediaries of connections by way of shareholdings or personnel or of sole agencies with insurers with whom they are proposing to place business. The regulations will not forbid these connections between intermediaries and insurers; if the parties choose to review them that is a matter for them. The regulations were designed to deal initially with the problem of "captive brokers" but in the interest of consumers have been wider drawn.

'We have put forward proposals for regulations about the form and contents of insurance advertisements and are discussing them with the industry and with other representative bodies. We are again concerned with disclosure. Some advertisements can be flamboyant in their claims or selective in what they say but stop short of being directly "misleading". For example, I recall seeing a newspaper advertisement headed "Come shortage, slump, credit squeeze, trade deficit, earthquake, Act of God or petrol rationing, we guarantee 48 per cent growth in four years". Advertisements need to give the right perspective; for example if benefits are offered any exceptions or reservations should also be stated.

'Advertisement in this context is a very wide term and includes not only newspaper advertisements but also brochures or pamphlets. The regulations will thus provide positive guidance to reinforce the prohibition of misleading statements set out in the Insurance Companies Act which of itself has already led to better standards in insurance advertising.'

**Brokers**

Mr. Clinton Davis stressed the importance of the disclosure of information in relation to insurance brokers. 'Earlier this year the Secretary of State asked the four leading associations of insurance brokers to work together to provide a definition of "insurance broker" and to put forward proposals for the supervision of insurance broking by means either of a brokers' professional institute or of an official licensing scheme rather like the scheme for estate agents proposed by Department of Prices and Consumer Protection.

'In taking this initiative we were in no way seeking to lessen competition in the sale of insurance, but rather to try and ensure that when a consumer went to a "broker" he could be satisfied that he was dealing with an independent adviser with suitable qualifications and experience who could be expected to assess his individual needs and suggest suitable cover. I am bound to say that some intermediaries at present calling themselves "brokers" may not measure up to what that term should imply.

'Again we are not trying to reserve insurance business to brokers, though doubtless some of them would like that. Many insurance companies deal directly with the public and there is also room for other intermediaries as well as brokers, but a responsibility lies on the insurers who deal with them to be satisfied that they are suitably qualified for the role they play.'

**Advisory Panel**

Mr. Clinton Davis stressed, however, that the first priority of effective supervision is 'to lessen the risk of failure through early warning of danger and by avoiding the widespread issue of unsound insurance policies. We are looking for a co-operative effort between the Department and the industry as a whole and therefore are setting up an Advisory Panel of representative of insurers, brokers, insurance trade unions and of policyholders to provide advice in these areas. There are always people in the market who are blessed with remarkable hindsight, who, after the event claim to have "known" about a shaky company. Our ambition therefore is to share their knowledge at the material time. I believe that the Advisory Panel could represent a breakthrough in this respect.'

**International business**

Mr. Clinton Davis concluded by stressing the importance of the insurance industry to Britain. 'It is right to discuss problems, but we must not lose sight of the success of British insurance or of its exceptional international standing. British insurers not only provide an international reinsurance market but also directly underwrite a great deal of overseas insurance business.

'An encouraging recent development is reported increased business in Europe. As the various EEC directives on insurance are agreed and take effect, and a true common market in insurance is developed, we look forward to our insurers and brokers providing their services to European policyholders with the same freedom as our partners' insurers and brokers already enjoy here.

'I understand that no other country is a net exporter of insurance services on this scale nor, with one exception, a regular net exporter. In sterling terms the net overseas earnings of the British insurance industry in recent years have been running at £360 million a year. Moreover, the most recent full comparison made showed that insurance was our seventh largest export industry. These figures denote a very large number of satisfied customers and represent a real vote of confidence by policyholders and insurers throughout the world. May this long continue.'

# Amendments to insurance accounting regulations

Regulations were laid before Parliament on 9 December which will revise the basis on which the annual returns of insurance companies (currently governed by the Insurance Companies (Accounts and Forms) Regulations 1968 – SI No. 1408) must be made to the Department of Trade.

The Regulations will require insurance companies to provide an annual analysis of their assets valued in accordance with the new valuation requirements which came into operation earlier this year. (The Insurance Companies (Valuation of Assets) Regulations 1974 – SI No. 2203). They will also require companies to identify in these annual returns those assets and liabilities relating to their long term (life) business, as required by the Insurance Companies Act 1974 (Section 23), and regulations made under that Section (Identification of Long Term Assets and Liabilities) Regulations, 1973 – SI 2064).

These amendment Regulations are essentially of an interim nature. The Department is preparing other Regulations governing the admissibility of certain assets which will be introduced shortly and the valuation of the liabilities of insurance companies. In parallel it is preparing a complete revision of the Accounts and Forms Regulations.

These regulations have been worked out in consultation with the insurance industry and others concerned.

**Notes**

The new Regulations are the Insurance Companies (Accounts and Forms) (Amendment) Regulations 1975, SI 1975 No. 1996, available from HMSO, price 20p net.

The Regulations will apply to the annual accounts of insurance companies in respect of financial years ending on or after 31 December 1975. Almost 70 per cent of the companies have financial years which coincide with the calendar year, and their accounts for the year ending 31 December 1975 will have to comply with the new Regulations.

The Regulations relating to the admissibility of assets, referred to above, are in an advanced state of preparation. They will take the form of a consolidation of the 1974 Valuation of Asset Regulations.

# Prevention of Fraud (Investments) Act 1958

## Dealers in Securities

The following changes have taken place in the lists of dealers in securities under Section 3 and 16 of the Prevention of Fraud (Investments) Act 1958.

**Licensed dealers**
Additions:

Louis-Dreyfus Securities Ltd., City Gate House, Finsbury Square, London EC2A 1QA.
Cometco Investments Ltd., Bridge House, 181 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4A 4DP.

Change of address:

Emson (C. J. Emson), 20 Arlington Street, London SW1.
Coyne Investment Management Ltd., 23 East Street, Tonbridge, Kent.

**Exempted dealers**
Additions:

Orion Bank Ltd., 1 London Wall, London EC2Y 5JX.

Change of name:

Rothschild Intercontinental Bank Ltd. to Amex Bank Ltd., PO Box 171, 120 Moorgate, London EC2P 2JY.
Midland Bank Finance Corporation Ltd. to Samuel Montagu (MBFC) Ltd., 114 Old Broad Street, London EC2P 2HY.

Change of address:

First Boston (Europe) Ltd., 16 Finsbury Square, London EC2M 7BY.

## Authorised unit trust schemes

The following amendments have taken place in the list of unit trust schemes authorised under Section 17 of the Act and published in Part 5 of the 1975 particulars of Dealers in Securities and of Unit Trusts.

| Group and/or name and address of management company | Name of scheme | Name and address of trustee |
|---|---|---|
| ADDITIONS<br>Key Fund Managers Ltd.<br>25 Milk Street<br>London EC2V 8JE | Key Fixed Interest Fund | National Westminster Bank Ltd.<br>41 Lothbury<br>London EC2P 2BP |
| Key Fund Managers Ltd.<br>25 Milk Street<br>London EC2V 8JE | Key Small Companies Fund | National Westminster Bank Ltd.<br>41 Lothbury<br>London EC2P 2BP |
| CHANGES<br>DELETE<br>Slater Walker Trust Management Ltd.<br>30 St. Paul's Churchyard<br>London EC4M 8DA | Century Trust | National Westminster Bank Ltd.<br>41 Lothbury<br>London EC2P 2BP |
| AND REPLACE BY<br>Slater Walker Trust Management Ltd.<br>30 St. Paul's Churchyard<br>London EC4M 8DA | Slater Walker Century Trust | National Westminster Bank Ltd.<br>41 Lothbury<br>London EC2P 2BP |
| DELETE<br>Slater Walker Trust Management Ltd.<br>30 St. Paul's Churchyard<br>London EC4M 8DA | National High Income Unit Fund | National Westminster Bank Ltd.<br>41 Lothbury<br>London EC2P 2BP |
| AND REPLACE BY<br>Slater Walker Trust Management Ltd.<br>30 St. Paul's Churchyard<br>London EC4M 8DA | Slater Walker National High Income Trust | National Westminster Bank Ltd.<br>41 Lothbury<br>London EC2P 2BP |
| DELETE<br>Slater Walker Trust Management Ltd.<br>30 St. Paul's Churchyard<br>London EC4M 8DA | Universal Second Unit Trust Certificates | National Westminster Bank Ltd.<br>41 Lothbury<br>London EC2P 2BP |
| AND REPLACE BY<br>Slater Walker Trust Management Ltd.<br>30 St. Paul's Churchyard<br>London EC4M 8DA | Slater Walker Universal Second Trust | National Westminster Bank Ltd.<br>41 Lothbury<br>London EC2P 2BP |
| DELETE<br>Midland Bank Group Unit Trust Managers Ltd.<br>117 Old Broad Street<br>London EC2N 1AL | | |
| AND REPLACE BY<br>Midland Bank Group Unit Trust Managers Ltd.<br>27/32 Poultry<br>London EC2P 2BX | | |

## 'T & I' subscriptions and sales

Subscriptions and sales inquiries about *Trade and Industry* should be directed to HMSO at any of the following addresses: 49 High Holborn, London WC1V 6HB; 13a Castle Street, Edinburgh EH2 3AR; Brazennose Street, Manchester M60 8AS; 258 Broad Street, Birmingham B1 2HE; 41 The Hayes, Cardiff CF1 1JW; Wine Street, Bristol BS1 2BQ; 80 Chichester Street, Belfast BT1 4JY, or through any bookseller.

# Moneylenders Acts 1900–1927

The following company has been recognised as being a person bona fide carrying on the business of banking for the purposes of the above Acts:

First National Finance Corporation Ltd.

# Protection of Depositors Act 1963 (as amended)

The following company has (at its own request) ceased to be recognised by the Secretary of State for Trade as a banking company for the purposes of the above mentioned Act:

First National Finance Corporation Ltd.

Sir George Edwards, chairman of the British Aircraft Corporation (left), receives the Aircraft Type Certificate of airworthiness for Concorde from Lord Boyd-Carpenter, chairman of the Civil Aviation Authority. The award of type certification – which is recognised internationally – means that Concorde can now carry passengers in service. At a ceremony at the Authority's London headquarters last week, Lord Boyd-Carpenter said that eight Concordes as well as research aircraft had flown over 5,000 hours to test the design, structure, systems and handling capabilities of the aircraft. The airframe itself has been subjected by the Royal Aircraft Establishment to the most comprehensive aircraft structural endurance tests ever created. Concordes have flown over 5 million miles and have landed at 83 airports in 49 countries. Seen seated are Gerald Kaufman, Minister of State for Industry (right), and Lord Beswick, who is to be chairman of the Organising Committee for British Aerospace. Mr. Kaufman said: 'We all look forward with keen anticipation to Concorde's entry into scheduled airline service with British Airways and Air France on 21 January.'

# Discipline in the Merchant Navy and the fishing industry

Proposals for modernising the systems of discipline on board merchant ships and fishing vessels are contained in two Reports* published on 5 December.

The Report on the Merchant Navy recommends abolition of shipboard fines and the creation of a new system of discipline administered by shore-based disciplinary committees, which should have statutory backing. The Report on the Fishing Industry recommends a statutory basis for port disciplinary committees and a tightening up of the rules on drinking.

In forewords to the Reports, Peter Shore, Secretary of State for Trade congratulates the Working Groups on producing unanimous recommendations.

He requests all those concerned to make their views known. He asks for comments by 16 January 1976 to Marine Division, Department of Trade, so that the Government's policy can be announced early in the New Year.

The main recommendations are summarised below:

**Merchant Navy Group**

The main question before the Merchant Navy Group was whether a shipboard or shore-based system of discipline was to be preferred. The Group thought it probable that any deterrent effects of the existing system were confined to occasional or minor offenders. It recommended that the present system of shipboard fines should be abolished.

This would be replaced by a system of formal warnings recorded at the time of the offence and with action (which might in the most serious cases involve discharge from the industry) taken by a disciplinary committee ashore soon after the offender's return to the United Kingdom.

There should also be one or more superior committees to deal with recommendations for discharge from the industry and to consider appeals.

The Group recommended that it should be possible for the committee to withdraw the discharge book (possession of which should be a condition of employment) of an offender whom it was decided to dismiss from the industry. Repatriation should be encouraged where a crew member was not deterred by warnings or where he endangered the ship or life on board.

In support of these proposals the Group drew up a detailed Code of Conduct for seafarers and a proposed reporting procedure.

The Group made recommendations on a number of other questions, including the effect of its proposals upon the Department's powers to withdraw Certificates of Competency for misconduct or other reasons, the application of its recommendations to seafarers domiciled overseas, the extent to which misuse of drink and drugs was a factor in indiscipline and social attitudes aboard ship.

**Fishing Vessel Group**

The Fishing Vessel Group concluded that, with the exception of drink to which it devoted a separate chapter of its Report, there was no single identifiable cause of indiscipline among fishermen and no single solution to the problem. It thought that a combination of effective statutory measures and industrially agreed arrangements, associated with improved recruitment and training techniques, was needed.

The Group recommended that the fishing industry should consider establishing a national registration scheme for fishermen to replace the existing port schemes and that the possession of a discharge book should be a pre-condition of engagement for employment of fishermen, initially on fishing vessels of 80 ft. registered length and over. The existing shore-based system of port disciplinary committees should be given statutory backing and a number of Regional Disciplinary Boards should be established to hear appeals and deal with other questions not appropriate to the port committees.

In the chapter of its Report dealing with the effects of drink the Group concluded that the three most serious aspects of the problem were heavy drinking by fishermen ashore before sailing; the practice of holding parties on board fishing vessels before and after sailing; and the ease with which large quantities of unauthorised liquor could be placed aboard fishing vessels. The amount of heavy drinking gave cause for concern both from the safety and disciplinary point of view. The Group thought that the primary responsibility for dealing with this situation lay with the fishing industry itself but it recommended that two major changes should be made to the Merchant Shipping Acts to support the industry's efforts.

The Group also made recommendations concerning a number of miscellaneous matters, including the repatriation of fishermen from abroad, sabotage and indiscipline at sea, refusals to sail (particularly those not due to drink), the effect upon discipline of the casual nature of employment in the fishing industry, selection recruitment, and training, and the application of its recommendations to the inshore fishing industry.

**Notes**

The Working Groups were appointed by the Secretary of State for Trade in May 1974. Separate Working Groups were appointed to examine in depth the disciplinary needs for sea-going employment in merchant ships and fishing vessels.

The terms of reference of the Groups were:

'To review the disciplinary requirements on board merchant ships/fishing vessels with particular reference to the framework of authority required in modern conditions in the interest of safety, good shipboard relations and effective operation and to make recommendations'.

* *Report of the Working Group on Discipline in the Merchant Navy.* HMSO, 65p.
*Report of the Working Group on Discipline in the Fishing Industry.* HMSO, 65p.

Trade and the following organisations were represented:

Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers
General Council of British Shipping
Mercantile Marine Service Association
Merchant Navy and Airline Officers Association
National Union of Seamen
Radio and Electronic Officers Union
Department of Trade

The Chairman of the Merchant Navy Group was Mr. L. F. Standen, Head of Branch 4 of Marine Division, Department of Trade.

The Fishing Vessel Group was chaired by Mr. M. J. Service, Head of Branch 2 of Marine Division, Department of Trade, with representation from the following:

British Trawlers Federation
Scottish Trawlers Federation
British Trawler Officers Federation
Hull and Aberdeen Trawler Officers Guilds
Transport and General Workers Union
Radio and Electronic Officers Union
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland
Department of Trade

Both Groups presented unanimous reports to the Secretary of State for Trade during October 1975.

# Food prices in outlying areas

Food prices in outlying areas in the United Kingdom are overall somewhat higher than in more central and densely populated areas, but the difference on average is small. This is the conclusion of the Price Commission in a report* on food prices in outlying areas published on 4 December.

In the outlying areas studies by the Commission during May 1975 – ranging from Orkney to the Scilly Isles, including the north of Scotland, East Anglia, parts of Yorkshire, Wales and the West Country – food prices were on average rather less than 3p in the £ higher than more central areas.

The north of Scotland showed the greatest disparity – 7.3 per cent above typical national prices – but prices in Northumberland were marginally lower, and in some other areas – for example, East Anglia – the difference was less than 1p in the £.

Small differences in average prices conceal major differences in individual prices. Fresh meat and fish, where available as local produce, are much cheaper in outlying areas than elsewhere, while liquid milk, bread and branded groceries are more expensive.

The main factors contributing to the above-average prices in the outlying areas are:

low turnover of traders;
transport costs.

The report says that the main reason for above-average food prices in outlying areas is the relatively small volume of business these areas afford.

Traders in outlying areas serving a small and scattered community usually have too low a turnover to qualify for the best terms offered by national food manufacturers whose discount structures are mostly based on volume.

Transport costs can be abnormally high, particularly where shipping services are involved, and to some extent these costs are passed on to the consumer. This has a significant effect on the price of fruit and vegetables. But the general level of retail food prices in outlying areas does not fully reflect transport costs. This is because national food manufacturers usually apply uniform prices throughout the United Kingdom irrespective of the distance goods must travel.

In the areas studied there were hardly any supermarkets. This to some extent explains the higher level of prices. Experience indicates that supermarkets are cheaper to operate, and their movement into an area tends to bring prices down.

But the Commission found no evidence to suggest that wholesalers or retailers of food in outlying areas might be exploiting their relative freedom from competition to the detriment of the consumer.

Most shops were found to be charging less than the statutory maximum prices for the foods subject to this control, and overall the financial results of the traders whose accounts were examined were modest.

The impact of domestic freezers on the level of retail food prices in outlying areas could not be quantified. But there was some evidence that in certain areas trading patterns were beginning to change.

Since the freezer owner tends to buy in bulk and shop at less frequent intervals, the use of freezers in outlying areas is likely to have a considerable effect on retail trading in the future.

**Northern Ireland**

Information about food prices in Northern Ireland was collected on a somewhat different basis from that adopted in Great Britain, but the results broadly followed the pattern found elsewhere.

*Food Prices in Outlying Areas. Commission Report No. 10 (HMSO 65p).

# Food prices in outlying areas: Robert Maclennan addresses public meeting

'The Government is concerned to ensure that food prices in outlying areas are no higher than is absolutely necessary,' said Robert Maclennan, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, in Orkney on 5 December.

Addressing a public meeting in Kirkwall at the invitation of the local Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Maclennan continued:

'Although yesterday's report from the Price Commission on food prices in outlying areas confirms that food prices are generally higher in the outlying areas than elsewhere, it is interesting that the Commission found that on average the difference was less than 3p in the £. It was highest in the north west of Scotland and Skye – over 7p. But happily the difference was considerably less than 3p in Orkney – which I think may reflect some credit on local producers and traders.

'Within these overall levels, major differences were, however, found between different kinds of food. In fact fresh foods – particularly meat and fish – were often as cheap or cheaper in outlying areas than in the towns. The price of fresh meat in Orkney, for example, was 18 per cent lower than in mainland towns. This is an important point and a major reason why the overall differences were not found to be as great as commonly imagined. Here is one sector where price-wise the outlying areas often have the edge over towns and cities – and the report says nothing about quality!

'On the other hand, groceries generally were more expensive and in the most outlying areas bread and milk – bulky and perishable products – were particularly costly.

'It is important to look at the reasons that the report finds for these differences. For a start, it is not profiteering by local retailers and wholesalers. The report summarises the overall financial results for 1973-74 for the wholesalers and retailers who were visited and shows their net earnings to be modest. Indeed the earnings of the retail grocers, including working proprietors' remuneration, was found to be on average only around £2,000 a year.

'Turnover and transport costs were the two major reasons for this. The report found the relatively small volume of business, which is unavoidable when the population is small and scattered, to be the most important cause of above-average prices in the outlying areas. It comments that few retail grocers, for instance, in the outlying areas were found to have had a turnover much in excess of £30,000 a year. They have little scope to increase this figure and it does not

Whether or not he appreciates it, Coinneach Ruadh 3rd of Leys receives a rosette to declare him Highland breed champion at the Royal Smithfield Show. Bestowing the honour is Robert Maclennan, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection. Mr. Maclennan was invited to the Smithfield Show in view of the Department's concern with prices. The Highland champ – a steer of the 21 to 27 months' class – is owned by K. W. Walker, Inverness.

provide a big return to meet overheads even if these are modest.

'It is, of course, well known and is emphasised by the report that the most favourable terms can be obtained from manufacturers only for large volumes of business. The outlying areas cannot hope to match the large supermarket chains in this respect. This is a subject on which I should like to see further work done.

'Transport is often the factor in the forefront of people's minds. It certainly adds to costs in the outlying areas. The report points out, however, that the practice of most national food manufacturers in charging uniform prices irrespective of distance means that the cost of transport is not fully reflected in outlying areas and I am having further inquiries made about the extent to which it is operated by manufacturers and into the reasons for the exceptions to national pricing.

'For some goods, particularly those which are of low value, bulky and perishable, transport costs are high – probably inevitably so. The report mentions fruit and vegetables, although local production helps sometimes. Bread, where prices can be up to 13 per cent more, is another case, in which transport costs are found to add considerably to the cost (subsidised of course) of bread, particularly where it is baked in large central bakeries and has to be transported a considerable distance. This is something we have had to recognise in fixing higher statutory maximum prices in some areas for the standard wrapped loaf, but many shops in outlying areas have still been able to keep well within the statutory maximum.

'We all want to find ways of keeping costs down. New developments may arise. The report itself notes, for instance, that it is too early to comment on the effect of the spread of freezer ownership and frozen foods.

'I hope all those concerned about the level of prices in outlying areas will read the Price Commission report. It is a complex problem and, as the report shows, there are no easy answers. I shall therefore pay close attention to the views that anyone wishes to put to me in the light of his own experience.'

## New price limits for household flour

The statutory maximum price of most plain and self-raising flour sold in 1 lb bags went up by ½p on 8 December. This was the effect of an order laid before Parliament on 5 December by Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection.

The increase was necessary because, as a result of higher wages and distribution costs, the major producers are restoring most of the price cuts they made last September following lower wheat prices. Prices in the shops will generally rise by 1p on 1 lb bags (more than offsetting the previous reduction) and by 1½p on 3 lb bags. Chapatti flour prices are not expected to be increased.

Prices in the shops will generally remain below the statutory maximum. The extent to which they may rise continues to be governed by the requirement that distributors' profits on household flour – the percentage difference between their buying and selling prices – should not be increased.

The Order is the Household Flour Prices (Amendment) Order 1975 – SI 1975/2020.

The maximum prices are now:

| | 1 lb bag | 3 lb bag |
|---|---|---|
| 1 Plain (other than strong, wheatmeal and wholemeal) | 9½p | 24½p |
| 2 Self-raising (other than strong, wheatmeal and wholemeal) | 9½p | 24½p |
| 3 Chapatti (other than batch, brown and wholemeal) | | 70 lb bag £4.00 |

The price reductions made by retailers in September were not reflected in amended prices in the order. The current increases result in an amendment of the prices of 1 lb bags only to the extent that they exceed the amount of the reduction.

In accordance with the Prices Acts the provisions of the order have been the subject of detailed consultations with organisations representing trade, consumer and enforcement bodies.

Enforcement is carried out by local weights and measures authorities in Great Britain and by the Department of Commerce in Northern Ireland.

Price regulation orders are also in force for bread, butter, cheese and tea.

## Undertaking to Director General of Fair Trading

The Director General of Fair Trading announced on (5 December 1975) that he has obtained written assurances under Part III of the Fair Trading Act 1973 from Parradon Limited, Registered Office, 97, King Charles Road, Surbiton, Surrey, a company which specialises in undertaking home improvements. The two directors of the company, Mr. Michael A. Smith and Mr. Michael Baker, also gave assurances. Mr. Baker gave further assurances as a director of M & P Spraying Company Limited, Registered Office, 97, King Charles Road, Surbiton, Surrey, which had engaged in a similar business.

The Director General took into consideration five complaints relating to M & P Spraying Company Limited concerning contracts made between May 1973 and June 1974. In four cases deposits totalling £200 were taken and no work done. In the fifth case money was paid in advance and some work done but not completed.

In the case of Parradon Limited, the Director General took into consideration 15 complaints concerning contracts made between June 1974 and January 1975, and a further three complaints since January 1975 against the same company trading under its registered business name 'Capitol Roofing Company'. Fifteen of these complaints involved contracts where a total of approximately £3,000 was paid in advance, but no work done. In the three remaining cases the work was started but not completed, although some money was paid before the work was commenced.

Mr. Baker was involved as a working director in both companies. Mr. Smith was only involved with Parradon Limited. The undertakings were sought therefore because it appeared to the Director General that the companies had persistently broken their obligations by failing to carry out work they had contracted to do or to refund consumers' deposits, and because Mr. Baker and Mr Smith have consented to or connived at the conduct of the companies with which they were concerned.

Since giving the assurances Mr. Baker has stated to the OFT that he has either written to or visited most of the consumers concerned in the complaints, offering to complete any outstanding work should the customer so require.

## Inquiry into energy prices and low-income households

The effect of energy prices on the budgets of low-income households is to be considered by the National Consumer Council at the request of Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection.

Replying to a Parliamentary Question on 2 December from Mike Thomas (New-

castle upon Tyne East), Mrs. Williams said:

'I have today asked the National Consumer Council, in consultation with appropriate consumer and welfare organisations:

to collect and consider evidence on the effect of energy prices on the budgets of low-income households including those on social security benefits;

to examine evidence of particular hardship; and

to suggest, if appropriate, means whereby any such hardship may selectively be alleviated, bearing in mind the need for restraint in public expenditure, the statutory obligations of the nationalised industries and the Government's intention to allow these industries to return to an economic level of pricing.

'I have asked the NCC to report to me on these matters at the earliest convenient date and by 1 June 1976 if at all possible.'

This reference is made under the terms of paragraph 7(b) of the White Paper, 'National Consumers' Agency' (Cmnd. 5726, September 1974). The Council also has under consideration a reference on consumer representation in the nationalised industries as described in paragraph 7(d) of the White Paper and is to submit its report to the Secretary of State by 1 March 1976.

The consumer organisations that the NCC will be consulting will include the Gas Consumers' Councils, the Electricity Consultative Councils and the Domestic Coal Consumers' Council.

## Onshore petroleum exploration licence granted

Tony Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, has granted a licence authorising the exploration for petroleum (oil and gas) to Oil Exploration Ltd. under the provisions of the Petroleum (Production) Act 1934 and related regulations. The licence covers an area of 475km² in the Lothian region and Borders region of Scotland.

It authorises the searching for oil and gas by prospecting and geological survey, including drilling to a depth of not more than 350m to obtain geological information.

The licence does not confer the right to drill for or to produce oil or gas. The licensee must obtain the permission of land owners and occupiers before entering on to any land. They are also required to consult local authorities before carrying out any seismic survey or drilling operation and to obtain any planning permission which may be required.

The licence is valid in the first instance for a period of three years and may be renewed annually at the discretion of the Secretary of State for up to a further three years.

## 'Coal is the fuel of the future' says energy minister

'With enough coal to last us 300 years and advanced new techniques being developed to turn it into an even more valuable chemical feedstock a whole new vista is opening out for the coal industry,' said Mr. Alex Eadie, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Energy, at Ellistown Colliery, Leicestershire, on 3 December.

Mr. Eadie, who was speaking after a visit underground, said :

'It may seem paradoxical to say, at a time when demand for coal is causing worry in union circles, that the coal industry has more going for it than at any time probably this century. It is, nevertheless, a fact.

'Although North Sea oil is the story on everyone's lips these days, the fact is gradually dawning that coal is the fuel of the future. With enough coal to last us 300 years and advanced new techniques being developed to turn it into an even more valuable chemical feedstock a whole new vista is opening out for the industry.

'Most important of all, however, is the development of a new and very constructive relationship between the Government, the unions and the NCB. Together, over the past 20 months we have forged a path ahead, and we are now sitting down to a new round of tripartite discussions to review progress.

'Central to our plans for the industry's future has been the "Plan for Coal" investment programme – £600 million of extra cash to be ploughed into the industry over the next 10 years. And the South Midlands area is getting its share – some £11.7 million this year alone.

'For the second time in less than a year the Government has just introduced important new legislation into the House of Commons to assist in the long process of putting the coal industry back on to its feet – making coal king again.

'The new National Coal Board (Finance) Bill will allow the Government to pay £250 million over the next 20 years towards the existing deficiencies of the Mineworkers' Pension Scheme which has now – following the last round of tripartite talks – been renegotiated to allow realistic pensions.

'The Bill also extends the Government's powers to make grants to the NCB towards the costs of holding stocks of coal. We will be able to help the NCB finance excess stocks which are held – but not immediately paid for – by the electricity generating boards and the British Steel Corporation.

'I am also encouraged by the new international commitment to research and development into coal processes which is taking shape in the recently announced International Energy Programme. Exciting projects like fluidised bed combustion – which will lead to highly efficient means of burning coal in power stations – are coming to the UK as we are generally regarded as a world leader in coal research.

'In the future also, I see the British coal industry getting into the highly profitable world market for coal. That is why I want to see coal stocks building up. We need a shop window of coal to show potential customers, even if our own demand for the product is depressed at the moment.

'So, among the other things I will be saying to the miners today, is this simple message. We still need all the coal you can mine safely and we need it at the most competitive price possible. High productivity is vital to keep costs down – and I am glad to see that that is exactly what we are getting from this pit and others in the area.'

## Burmah Oil Company

The following is the text of a Parliamentary statement made on 3 December by Tony Benn, Secretary of State for Energy:

'About a year ago, Burmah Oil Company approached the Government and the Bank of England about its difficulties in meeting the technical requirements of certain loan agreements notably those covering its large borrowings in dollars from a group of North American banks.

'As the House will know, it was agreed that the Bank should guarantee the North American borrowings for a period of 12 months and should also provide a further measure of support by way of a standby facility. However, Burmah has not been able to proceed as rapidly as expected with the sale of its US assets.

'The Government has therefore reviewed the situation with the company, including its cash needs, in consultation with the Bank of England and Peat, Marwick and Mitchell. It has been decided that the dollar borrowing guarantees should be renewed for a further nine months so as to give further time for the company to realise its US assets at a satisfactory price.

'In addition, the Government has offered to purchase the whole or a substantial part of Burmah's North Sea oil assets at a fair price to be negotiated on an arm's length basis. The Board of Burmah are ready to enter into immediate discussions with the Government to explore all possibilities subject to it being satisfied that the interests of the company are fully safeguarded. These discussions will necessarily take some time and both parties are hopeful that they will be successfully concluded. Both parties are determined that the negotiations shall not hinder the continuing development of the North Sea.'

# Technology News

## The right climate for agricultural research

The annual report of the Agricultural Research Council for 1974-75 has now been published. Introducing the report Dr. W. M. (Gregor) Henderson, said:

'In this Annual Report we refer specifically to the special case for agricultural research. When this is presented in the context of the fact that agricultural research is not merely the pursuit of knowledge, some of which may be useful to farmers, but that it is a major activity of the national effort to feed our population to a greater extent from our own resources, I am optimistic that our voice will be heard.

'My Council has, accordingly, been increasingly concerned through public means and, in the course of its continuing dialogue with the Advisory Board for the Research Councils and Government, to bring home fully the contribution which agricultural research can make to the national economy.'

Attention was drawn to the work of the Unit of Animal Genetics and the Unit of Invertebrate Chemistry and Physiology, whose fundamental research is being supported in the belief that basic knowledge will provide future gain. The Report also includes brief references to the soil survey; controlled spring droplets; 'Suntan' – a new apple variety; leafless peas; new cereal varieties; anti-biotic resistance; carbon dioxide enrichment in glasshouses; the control of ovulation and pregnancy testing in cows; swine vesicular disease and slurry handling.

## Industrial air compressed quietly

Hydrovane Compressors of Redditch have introduced a system of providing industrial compressed air which is very quiet in operation and easily manoeuvrable. Called the Hydrovane 170 'Air Centre', it has been designed mainly to meet the stringent noise pollution specifications which are being introduced in West Germany where industrial noise is said to be causing increasing concern.

The noise level one metre away from the air centre is 60 decibels, broadly equivalent to drawing-room conversation level.

Based on the well-established 40 hp 170 PUM rotary vane compressor, the air centre will provide a constant supply of 150 $ft^3$/min of clean dry air at 100 lb/$in^2$. The compressor is driven by a 40 hp electric motor which can derive its current from the normal factory mains. Discharged air is cooled by a fan/radiator aftercooler, and a cyclonic separator and automatic drain trap removes moisture which has condensed in the aftercooler. Because it is an enclosed air compressor it can be used for factory space heating in winter, or as a ventilation extractor in the summer by rotating it through 180°.

Silencing the compressor has been achieved by installing it in a rugged steel case which is lined with thick acoustic insulation. The cooling air is taken in and extracted through a series of baffles which also help to reduce the noise level.

The 50-ton extrusion press for forming silicon carbide slab at the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority's Springfield laboratory. In the search for improved efficiency and lower fuel consumption, jet engine designers are demanding materials that will withstand higher temperatures and ceramic materials in particular silicon carbide and silicon nitride may prove the answer. Of these two, the nitride has the lower thermal expansion coefficient. Silicon carbide by contrast has better thermal conductivity characteristics which help it to cope with the intense heat generated.

## Anglo German Foundation to spend £500,000

The Board of Trustees of the Anglo German Foundation for the Study of Industrial Society has committed just over £500,000 in projects in the period from October 1974 to October 1975. The Foundation was created by inter-governmental agreement and incorporated by Royal Charter in 1973, but its major development followed the appointment of the Secretary General, Peter McGregor, in June 1974.

The report for the year 1974 (during which the Foundation was beginning to get under way) and the Foundation's programme have just been published.

At the recent meeting of the Board in Bonn-Bad Godesberg, a number of major projects were approved, including a comparison of the decision-making processes of trade unions and trade union confederations in Britain and Germany; the British contribution to a 10-nation study of participation and industrial relations, which starts with the question of how much and what kind of participation people actually want; a comparison of savings and investment in the two countries; an examination of the effects of public policy on investment in France, Germany, and Britain; a comparison of the tax treatment of companies in Britain and Germany; and a conference comparing the success of the German 'concerted action' with that of the National Economic Development Council.

Other major projects already under way include a comparison of housing, land, and urban development policies in the two countries; the problems of the creation of new technologically based firms; the problems of small and medium-sized enterprises; how manpower problems are dealt with at the level of the firm; how the different industrial relations systems actually work within comparable companies in the two countries; making sense of comparisons of the sizes of firms; the decline of fertility in Britain and Germany since 1964; and the establishment of a centre for alternatives in urban development.

The work of the Foundation includes other activities in addition to research projects. Discussion is going on about a proposed major conference between old established industrial areas in the two countries (initially, the Ruhr and West Yorkshire/East Lancashire) with the object of learning from each other's experience of the practical problems involved in the adaptation of such regions to social and economic changes.

A private conference took place earlier this year on employee participation and capital sharing at which three political parties from each country, together with trade union and business leaders, were present, including Ministerial representation. More recently, the Executive Committee of the Trade Union group of Labour Members of Parliament visited the Federal Republic to study co-determination and the German trade unions.

# Coal mining technology

Britain's coal mining industry is planning developments and improvements in its mine layouts and mining techniques which are designed to bring substantial benefits in increased production, productivity and safety.

The sinking of a new mine provides a unique opportunity for the optimum layout to be planned from the outset, but to a large degree this can only be achieved if the structure and geological features of the coalfield are well known. This involves substantial expenditure on exploration – by means of underground drivages, boreholes from the surface and other prospecting methods – in order to pre-prove the coal seams.

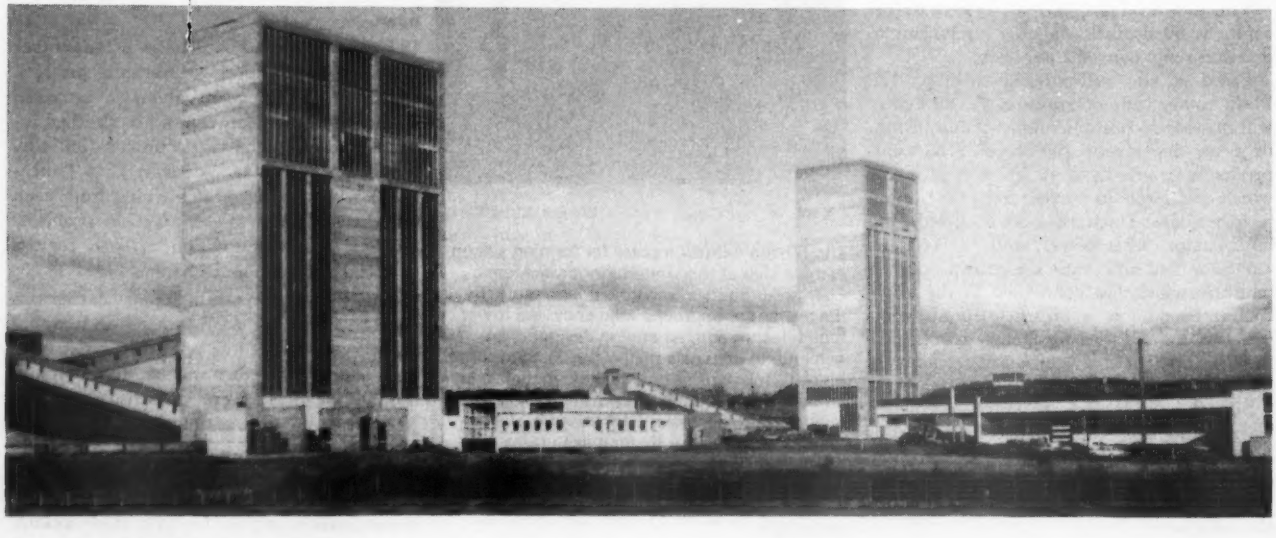
All mine plans are bound to be a compromise between conflicting factors. Underground roadways should be as near level as possible to provide efficient high speed man-riding transport by locomotive-drawn vehicles, but at the same time they must remain sufficiently near the coal seams for easy and economic access. The longer the working coalface the better the ratio between coal output and roadway costs; but often the longer face has a slower rate of advance, which can result in deterioration of strata conditions. The development of a roadway network for mining by a limited number of high output longwall faces can be achieved more cheaply than for mining by a larger number of shorter faces; on the other hand, longwall faces are at risk in geologically faulted areas and interruptions to production can considerably reduce a pit's overall output capacity.

Recent trends in the underground layout of collieries have been towards retreating longwall faces, fully mechanised to produce 1,000 or even 2,000 tons of coal per day (at Solsgirth Colliery in Scotland a record performance of over 5,000 tons per day or 25,260 tons per week was achieved recently). To open out new faces of this type, well in advance of the required data, and to keep such development ahead of the faces already in production, requires careful planning and intensive mechanisation to ensure the speedy driving of access tunnels, whether in stone or the coal seam.

A tunnel driven in coal recently at Orgreave Colliery, South Yorkshire Area, by a Dosco Dintheader advanced at a rate of 222 yd per week, whilst at Dawdon Colliery, North East Area, a rotary tunnelling machine 12 ft in diameter advanced through stone at rates of just over 80 yd per week. These are isolated high performances; the immediate objective is to double the present average rate of advance of 10 to 15 yd per week so as to secure regular average advances in development tunnels of over 30 yd per week or 2 yd per shift.

There is also a trend, with new mines, towards providing access from the surface via at least one sloping tunnel or drift, rather than a vertical shaft, in which a continuously running conveyor system can be installed to carry coal to the surface. In many cases, underground coal transport conveyor systems incorporate, at strategic points, large capacity coal storage bunkers so that production at the coal face need not be interrupted in the event of breakdowns elsewhere.

While conveyors are the most favoured means of transporting coal on the surface and under-



Killoch Colliery in Ayrshire. The administrative block is on the right. The conveyors on the left hand side carry the coal direct to the Coal Preparation Plant. Winding gear is enclosed in the two towers.

## by R. B. Dunn, Director-General of Mining, National Coal Board

ground, a variety of transport systems are used to carry men and materials – conventional wheeled mine cars or trollies on rail track (2 to 3 ft gauge) drawn by steel wire ropes or locomotives; overhead or on-the-floor monorail systems; trapped rail or coolie-car systems, also drawn by steel wire rope or locomotive; and trackless vehicles of the rubber-tyred or caterpillar type.

For high speed long distance transport of men and materials the most suitable means appears to be trolley wire electric locomotives on conventional rail track, operating in fireproofed roadways free of methane (ie intake airways). The main line high speed underground locomotive system must be able to travel at 25 to 30 mph to provide adequate working time on coal faces which can be up to 7 miles from the mine entrance. A recent development has been the rack locomotive, at present driven by a flameproof diesel engine, which can negotiate short lengths of steep gradients up to 1 in 6: although the speed with such equipment will be reduced 5 mph along such lengths.

Because of inflation and the increased costs of machines, labour and materials, the costs of opening a new mine and of developing new faces have become so high that to justify the expenditure and obtain a satisfactory return on capital, minimum daily and annual outputs must be double the acceptable level of 10-15 years ago. For example, a new mine now costs at least £20 million to develop, and to be economically viable must be capable of producing at least 2 million tons of coal a year (10,000 tons per day) instead of the target for new mines in the 1950s of 1 million tons a year. Similarly, as the cost of equipping a mechanised high output face underground now exceed £½ million, minimum planned output must be 1,000 tons per day.

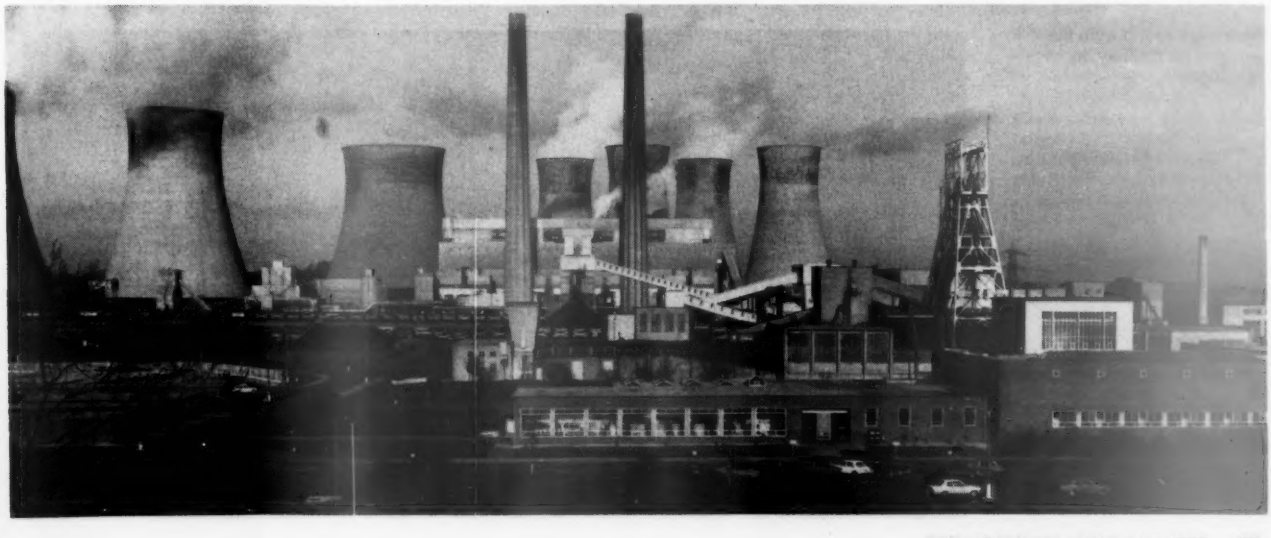
Changes in the markets for coal, requiring a high standard of quality as well as consistency of product, have been paralleled by improvements in coal preparation techniques at collieries.

Coal transport costs can be minimised and manpower saved by the use of liner trains, usually of large, 33-ton wagons, kept on a merry-go-round circuit to and from the customer, such as a power station. A large capital investment programme to increase the number of 'merry-go-round' systems in operation has begun, and they will become almost universal at collieries after 1980.

These and many other factors are of prime importance in the design and construction of new mines, as well as in the modernisation of the many long life collieries where there is a real potential for increasing production and efficiency.

The Board intends to build on the achievements of the past in two ways: by using a step by step philosophy to integrate the best proven techniques into a system of Advanced Technology Mining (ATM) on all coal faces; and by developing improved techniques by a process of evolution of the best of the already proven methods.

Technically and economically it is necessary to aim towards greater production and productivity, considering the individual coal face



Lea Hall Colliery and Rugely Power Station, NCB Western Area. Coal is transported by enclosed conveyors (centre) direct from the pits to the power station.

# Coal mining technology

**continued**

as the unit rather than the colliery. This implies the wider spread of one or two-face collieries in the future, on which all the problems of production capacity, environment and safety will be concentrated.

We intend to exploit fully the systems and the equipment we know already and to move forward from there, and to this end a drive has been launched to bring together proven techniques currently in use.

In addition to achieving optimum production, productivity and safety by taking a series of progressive forward steps, the aim of ATM is also to establish a mining system with a substantial potential for remote control working, thereby reducing to a minimum the number of face men required.

It is a philosophy of single step development by which assessments may be made of the success of the action taken before advancing to the next stage. Faults which arise may be more readily remedied where there is finite knowledge of the cause.

Coalface design must aim for performance with reliability and for equipment combining longevity with simplicity. One attribute is based on one or more of the others; hence performance will be absent without reliability; reliability most frequently accompanies simplicity; longevity is generally found in reliable and simple machines. The basis for these qualities is equipment simply designed, working well within its operating capacity. Simple design does not mean rough design, nor does reliability necessarily imply massive construction.

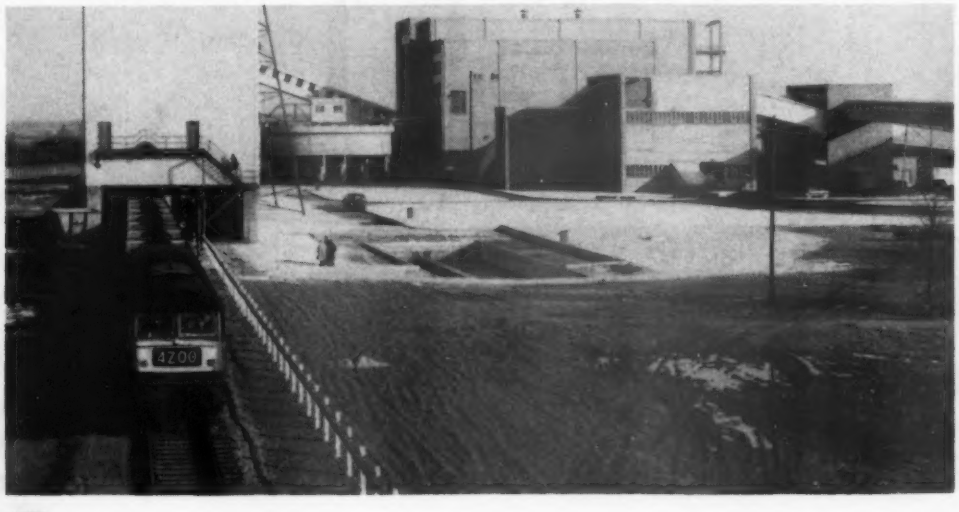
In the longwall method of working used in Britain, shearers are the predominating coal cutting/loading machines. Consequently the major development effort has been towards increased productivity and safety on longwall faces equipped with shearer loaders. The supremacy of this type of machine has been due to its great adaptability to longwall face work – being capable, in its modern form, of bi-directional operation; of cutting into the fast end of the face; of producing its own stables; and, if necessary, of cutting roof and floor in addition to either the full seam or a selected portion of it.

Improvement in the width of the web cut by the shearer drum has been obtained at one colliery where a theoretical web of 3 ft has enabled an actual measured web of almost the same width consistently to be obtained. This development requires an appreciably greater prop-free-front than the 6 ft 6 in overall distance currently allowed on most of Britain's longwall faces. In this case powered supports designed for maximum cover and support enabled a prop-free-front distance of about 8 ft to be adopted, and during the first two months of 1975 this wide-web face, working in an extracted seam thickness of 6 ft, consistently produced 6,500-7,000 saleable tons of coal each week.

Working within the current prop-free-front limit of 6 ft 6 in limits the design of equipment to operate in this area. It also taxes the ingenuity of engineers in attempts to allocate the optimum width within the prop-free-front to the cut web of coal. Cutting drums and cowls have been developed which, together with slow rotational speeds, are achieving remarkably efficient coal clearance at the power loader. These efforts are now being intensified in order to cater for the greater demands for coal clearance across the drum in wider web conditions.

The accent on production has encouraged the adoption of more powerful shearers capable of meeting two of the criteria for ATM, namely increased output and reliability. The use of recently developed 400 hp single motor shearers has resulted in improvements both in production and in coal face environment. The findings of the Board's earlier investigation into tools and drums for shearers were inhibited by the low weight and power of the machines then in use. Using high powered shearers of greater weight, slow drum speed combined with rapid machine haulage has enabled deep pick penetration to be achieved with complete machine stability. Dust production is significantly reduced and product size improved.

Successful transmission of high torque through the machine to the pick point demands the development of improved cutting tools and transmission gears. Much work has been done on cutting tools to obtain satisfactory slow speed



Merry-go-round train at Bevercotes Colliery, in Nottingham.

cutting with deep penetration. The development of intermediate and integral gearboxes permitting drum speed selection enables the speed of rotation of the drum to be matched to the cutting condition.

Development of suitable conveyors to complement heavy duty power loaders is being continued in attempts to combine capacity and longevity with adequate strength to support the great weight of the shearer – all within an acceptable prop-free-front distance. While the problem of providing adequate conveyor capacity has increased with the increase on the production potential of the power loader, the difficulties are exacerbated at faces using more than one power loader.

Nevertheless multi-machine faces have proved highly productive, especially in advancing longwall conditions when the man-saving, but machine-time consuming, operation of stable elimination is undertaken. The complete solution to very high capacity face conveying, within reasonable prop-free-front dimensions, has still to be found.

Chainless haulage is particularly beneficial on multi-machine faces. From an original proposal on a modified rack-and-pinion shearer haulage principle, several separate chainless haulage systems have now been designed which eliminate the static power loader haulage chain. These systems, while identical in purpose, differ considerably in design. Experience will indicate the best system; meanwhile each increases safety at the coal face by the total elimination of accidents resulting from chain breakage and chain oscillation. Further benefits accrue from a quieter operating environment and freedom from chain anchorage requirements at face ends.

There has been one unexpected disadvantage connected with chainless haulage, however, in that the simple check on face straightness which the static chain provides is thereby also removed. This has led to increased interest in mains static face lighting, resulting in an improved environment as well as in the maintenance of straight faces.

It is recognised that machine mining gives rise to safety and environmental problems, some of which have already been mentioned. These must be considered in present and future face designs, and planned for in parallel with productivity development.

One of the most serious problems is that of airborne dust. The drive to combat dust takes many forms in addition to the design of high power, slow-drum-speed machines. Pick face flushing, which provides individual water jets to the cutting tip of each cutting tool, has been successfully developed and introduced.

A nucleonic steering device, which can detect the difference between coal and stone and automatically steer the coal cutting machine to keep it within the coal seam and prevent the cutting of unwanted stone from roof or floor, has been developed to the production stage for fixed drum coal shearers, and similar equipment for ranging drum machines is being developed. The ability to steer the power loader automatically and at all times within the seam can bring about considerable improvement in airborne dust conditions.

A further advantage is the increased protection from frictional ignition, at the shearer cutting drum, of methane given off as the coal is cut. The main and most effective weapon against this hazard has been improved air flow induced by water to the face side of the drum via an axially drilled hole on the drum shaft – aimed at nullifying the effect of any sparks produced as a result of the coal cutting operation. The aim with nucleonic steering is to eliminate the production of sparks.

Coal in Britain is an industry implementing, with the support of the Government, a 10-year expansion programme – involving substantial increases in the present levels of investment – to help the nation achieve self-sufficiency in energy and reduce the costly burden of imported supplies.

The Board and the mining unions have affirmed their determination to work together to secure a prosperous future for coal, both for the benefit of all those who work in the industry and for the country as a whole, and I am confident that the spirit of goodwill and co-operation which exists will enable us successfully to meet the challenges which lie ahead.

A modern way of keeping down dust on the coalface by jets of water hitting the pick points. Combined with sharp picks, low rotational speed of the shearer drum and high haulage speed, this is the most effective way of preventing the dust from becoming airborne.

# Parliament

## Monday, 1 December

**Shipbuilding industries**

*Mr. Trotter asked what steps have been taken to increase industrial democracy at each of Govan Shipbuilders, Sunderland Shipbuilders and Cammell Laird.*

Mr. Kaufman said: 'Each company has yard councils and varying consultative arrangements, both formal and informal. British Shipbuilders, to be set up under the Aircraft and Shipbuilding Industries Bill, will be under an obligation to have full regard to the need to promote industrial democracy.'

*Mr. Trotter also asked for an undertaking that after nationalisation employment in the shipbuilding, ship-repairing and marine engineering industries would be no less than at present.*

Mr. Kaufman said: 'It is not possible to give precise forecasts of employment on any future date for those industries which operate in highly competitive and cyclical international markets.'

**Robb Caledon Ltd.**

*Mr. Gordon Wilson (Dundee East) asked what loans and grants were given to Robb Caledon Ltd. in the five years to date.*

Mr. MacKenzie said: 'As far as Government assistance specific to shipbuilders is concerned Robb Caledon has received during the last five years the £200,000 balance of a loan of £400,000 and a grant of £104,000 made under the Shipbuilding Industry Act 1967. It has also received Construction Grants totalling £993,981. Shipbuilders' Relief – a rebate of taxes currently 2 per cent of the cost of a ship – has also been available.

'In addition its subsidiary Burntisland Engineers and Fabricators Ltd. received a loan of £450,000 under the Industry Act 1972. The company would have qualified too for the normal range of assistance available to industry generally including Investment Grants, Regional Employment Premium and grants available under the Industry Act and Local Employment Acts.'

**Drypool Group**

*Mr. Patrick Wall (Haltemprice) asked for a statement on the future of the Drypool Group in North Humberside.*

Mr. Varley said: 'The financial assistance of £325,000 provided by my Department opened up the prospect of completing work on most of the ships on the present order book. After taking full account of the views of the Industrial Development Advisory Board and the Receiver, the Government came to the conclusion that the best employment prospects would result from allowing the Receiver to negotiate with prospective private purchasers of the component parts.'

**Metrication**

*Mr. Roger Moate (Faversham) asked if the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection would confirm that the Government has no intention of introducing metrication for speed limits, for beer and spirits and for milk.*

'No,' said Mr. Williams. 'The general obligations under EEC legislation require that all these items should be metricated by the end of 1979. The metric sizes that will be adopted for retail sales of beer, spirits and milk have not yet been settled.

'Special derogations beyond the general implementation date 31 December 1979 will be sought in relation to speed limits and the sale of draught beer.'

*Mr. Moate also asked what obligations exist under the Common Market legislation for the Government to introduce metrication generally and specifically in these fields.*

Mr. Williams replied: 'Under the terms of the EEC Units of Measurement Directive made in 1971 to which we subscribe under the Treaty of Accession, the UK is obliged to adopt the metric (SI) system for all purposes after 31 December 1979 and generally to cease using imperial units after the same date. We will also be obliged by April 1978 not to discriminate against metric prepackages originating in other member states.

'The EEC Directive concerned with the prepackaging of liquids such as milk, beer and spirits will similarly mean that after 31 December 1979 at the latest UK bottlers of these liquids who wish to make the most of the export markets represented by other member states will have to pack in certain prescribed metric sizes. There is no general obligation on UK to adopt these sizes for UK internal trade although manufacturers may wish to do so in some cases to obtain the full benefits of standardisation and the lower costs resulting from it. A special derogation beyond 31 December 1979 will be sought for the sale of draught beer. Similar special derogations will be sought before 31 December 1979 from the obligations imposed by the Units of Measurement Directive extending the use of metric units on road signs and speed limit signs.'

**Diesel engines**

*Mr. Ivor Clemitson (Luton East) wanted to know the total number and value of diesel engines exported from and imported into the UK in each of the past five years.*

Mr. Deakins gave the following information for all types of newly constructed compression ignition engines:

| | Imports | | Exports | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 000's | £m cif | 000's | £m fob |
| 1970 | 46 | 11.2 | 303 | 80.7 |
| 1971 | 27 | 11.9 | 239 | 80.3 |
| 1972 | 28 | 12.1 | 284 | 92.8 |
| 1973 | 36 | 19.9 | 280 | 99.9 |
| 1974 | 53 | 31.4 | 305 | 123.2 |
| 1975 Jan.-Oct. | 40 | 36.7 | 277 | 159.9 |

**Imports of television tubes**

*Mr. Ted Graham (Enfield, Edmonton) asked the Secretary of State for Trade what steps he has in mind to curb the volume of imports of television tubes from Japan.*

### Ministers at the Department of Industry

**Secretary of State for Industry:** Eric Varley
**Minister of State:** Gregor MacKenzie
**Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State:** Lord Melchett
Neil Carmichael

### Ministers at the Department of Trade

**Secretary of State for Trade:** Peter Shore
**Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State:** Eric Deakins
Stanley Clinton Davis

### Ministers at the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection

**Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection:**
Shirley Williams
**Minister of State:** Alan Williams
**Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State:** Robert Maclennan

'As the House will know,' said Mr. Deakins, 'We have already announced our intention to introduce surveillance licensing on imports of colour television tubes and sets. Meanwhile the situation is being closely monitored.'

**Policyholders Protection Act**

*Mr. Moate asked what staffing and accommodation arrangements are contemplated for the Policyholders Protection Board.*

Mr. Clinton Davis said: 'The British Insurance Association and the Life Offices' Association have offered to provide the Board initially with accommodation and secretarial facilities; but the Board are free to make whatever arrangements they wish.'

*Mr. Moate also asked for a statement to be issued clarifying the effect on policyholders of the imposition of a levy under the Policyholders Protection Act, particularly explaining whether the incidence of the levy would be equal between policyholders of one insurance company and another.*

'The Act provides for levies on insurance companies and not on policyholders,' replied Mr. Clinton Davis. 'The levy cannot exceed 1 per cent of a company's net premium income in any year and it is for each company to decide how it will meet any liability to levy.'

**Company investigations**

*Mr. R. B. Cant (Stoke-on-Trent Central) asked the Secretary of State for Trade: 'Whether, as the investigatory reports initiated under the Companies Acts rarely result in prosecution or recompense to shareholders, he is satisfied that they justify the amount of professional time and money involved in producing them?'*

Mr. Clinton Davis replied: 'I am satisfied that the cost of these investigations is justified. In some cases they do not lead to evidence of criminal offences which would justify prosecution, but where there are circumstances which justify the use of my Rt. Hon. Friends investigatory powers it is in the public interest that the facts should be independently investigated and published where appropriate.

'I also refer my Hon. Friend to the Companies Annual report for 1974 which records the recovery of approximately £800,000, following the appointment of Inspectors and subsequent civil recovery proceedings by the Department in the names of 15 separate companies. There was also a successful criminal prosecution following the Inspectors' inquiries. In consequence of the institution of Section 165 inquiries in First Re-Investment Trust Ltd., Nelson Financial Trust Ltd. and English and Scottish Unit Trust Holdings Ltd., some £5 million was refunded to the group of companies concerned. Criminal proceedings were commenced in these cases, but were terminated on the death of the principal defendant.'

*Mr. Cant asked how many of the 18 companies now under investigation by the Department of Trade are already in liquidation and how many are under completely different ownership.*

Mr. Clinton Davis said: 'In my answer to the Hon. Member for Bolsover on 3 November 1975 (Hansard Vol. 899 Cols 68/9, see also *Trade and Industry*, 14 November, page 406) I listed the names of 17 companies in which inquiries had not yet been completed. Only one of these companies – Court Line Ltd. – is in liquidation and in four companies there has been a change in the ownership of the shares.'

*Mr. Cant asked for an estimate of the cost of investigations initiated by the Department of Trade for the years 1971 to 1974 under the Companies Acts, indicating the amount accounted for by fees paid to private firms in the accountancy and legal professions.*

Mr. Clinton Davis gave the table below showing the estimated cost of office staff and overheads for the Companies Investigation Branch, excluding legal services, and the actual amounts paid in the financial year to non-departmental accountant and legal Inspectors. These latter figures do not relate directly to appointments made in any one year – in some cases bills of costs are rendered in the succeeding accounting periods.

| | Estimated staff cost and overheads year ending 31 December | Payments to accountants and legal inspectors year ending 31 March |
|---|---|---|
| 1971 | NA | — |
| 1972 | 99 | 212 |
| 1973 | 179 | 166 |
| 1974 | 251 | 156 |
| 1975 | — | 634 |

NA = Not available.

**TOVALOP Agreement**

*Mr. Terence L. Higgins (Worthing) asked whether the tanker owners' voluntary agreement, TOVALOP, concerning liability for oil pollution, provides for full compensation to be paid by them to local authorities and others sustaining damage from oil pollution of the sea when other types of vessel are also involved.*

Mr. Clinton Davis replied: 'I understand that under the provisions of the TOVALOP Agreement, which covers virtually all the world's oil tankers, liability for meeting claims by Governments for compensation in respect of oil spilled from the tanker is dependent on fault with the burden of proof reversed. The term "Government" as used in the Agreement includes local authorities.

'An alternative method of recovery is provided by the International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage 1969, now in force and given effect in the UK by the Merchant Shipping (Oil Pollution) Act 1971. This imposes strict liability on the owner of a tanker from which oil escapes, and which is registered in a country which is party to the Convention.'

**Chrysler UK Ltd.**

*Mr. Michael Spicer (South Worcestershire) asked the Secretary of State for Industry whether he has received any application from Chrysler UK Ltd., for financial assistance.*

Mr. Varley answered: 'As the Hon. Member knows, the financial situation of Chrysler UK Ltd., is a subject of continuing discussion between the Government and the Chrysler Corporation. The feasibility of a number of options is being considered and a report will be made to the House as soon as it is possible to do so.'

*A further statement about the Chrysler situation was asked for by Mr. Les Huckfield (Nuneaton), Mr. Dennis Canavan (West Stirlingshire) and Mr. Nicholas Winterton (Macclesfield).*

Mr. Varley said: 'Discussions are continuing with the Chrysler Corporation. I am very much aware of the anxiety caused by the present uncertainty. It is my intention to make an announcement as quickly as is consistent with a thorough examination of all aspects of the problem.'

**Aircraft noise**

*Mr. Geoffrey Pattie (Chertsey and Walton) asked when the trials of the two-segment approach are to commence and at which civil airport.*

Mr. Kaufman replied: 'As part of HMG's continuing research into the reduction of aircraft noise, a few experimental flights into London Heathrow and London Gatwick airports will be made during the course of the next three months.'

**Collision between 'Achilles' and 'Olympic Alliance'**

*Mr. Terence L. Higgins (Worthing) asked for an assurance that in addition to the Ministry of Defence inquiry into the collision of HMS* Achilles *and the tanker* Olympic Alliance *the Department of Trade would carry out a general investigation into the operation of the traffic separation scheme at the time of the accident and publish the results, and also if copies of the Coastguard radar record of vessels in the English Channel near the two ships at about the time of the collision would be made available.*

Mr. Clinton Davis replied: 'My Department is already investigating this and the radar record of the Dover Strait for the period covering the collision is being further analysed by the National Physical Laboratory. I shall consider what further information, if any, might be made available to the House when these studies are completed having regard to the fact that formal inquiries are to be held.'

*Mr. Higgins asked about the recording of any vessels as being in contravention of the traffic separation system at the time of the collision; and whether such vessels could be identified.*

Mr. Clinton Davis answered: 'Shortly before the collision echoes of two contravening vessels were observed on radar at St. Margaret's Bay Coastguard Station and a warning broadcast was made. It is not considered feasible to identify such vessels at night and in poor visibility.'

**Accident in English Channel**

*Mr. Anthony Grant (Harrow Central) asked for a statement on the shipping accident in the English Channel which resulted in the sinking of a Russian vessel, and Mr. Stephen Ross (Isle of Wight) asked what steps are being taken to ensure that the wreck of the* Gorizont *does not become a hazard to shipping in the Channel.*

Mr. Shore said: 'At 19.17 on 25 November an SOS message in Russian was received by radio. Subsequent inquiries established that the Russian factory trawler ship *Gorizont* and the Moroccan freighter *Ifni* had collided in a position 22 miles south of St. Catherine's Light, Isle of Wight, in about 38 fathoms of water, that there had been no loss of life and that assistance was not required. The Hydrographer of the Navy was informed and warnings to mariners broadcast. The *Gorizont* had partially sunk but her bows were still visible; naval vessels have been in attendance to illuminate the scene and take any necessary warning-off action. Trinity House has laid wreck buoys and one of their vessels has been standing by the wreck.

'Although neither vessel involved was a tanker, the anti-pollution tug *Culver* was prepared and despatched from Southampton in the early hours of the morning as a precautionary measure and was off the Needles at first light. Its investigations on the scene during the morning established that there was only a light film of fuel oil which did not require spraying. The *Culver* was subsequently recalled but a close watch is being kept on this as on other aspects of the collision.

'We have been in touch with the Russian Embassy about the risk to navigation in the Channel and we understand that their Government has been urgently considering the question of salvage. However, the latest report received yesterday morning is that following exceptionally heavy seas the bows of the vessel are no longer visible. Naval aircraft and surface vessels are carrying out a reconnaissance in order to determine its position.'

## Tuesday, 2 December

### English Channel

*Mr. Stephen Ross (Isle of Wight) asked the Secretary of Statee for Trade about steps being taken to ensure that vessels using the English Channel abide by the regulations covering the navigation of ships in the area.*

Mr. Shore answered: 'The responsibility for ensuring compliance with the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea rests with the flag state, in the English Channel and elsewhere. Contraventions of these regulations which come to the notice of the United Kingdom authorities are investigated with a view to prosecution of any British vessel involved in representations to the appropriate flag state. Permanent radar surveillance is maintained in the Dover Strait and substantial numbers of vessels contravening the traffic separation scheme regulations are identified by patrol craft.

'Observance of such schemes is mandatory for British and certain foreign ships, and ships of most flags will be required to comply under the revised International Collision Regulations which are expected to come into force in a little over one year's time. Further discussions with the French Authorities on maritime safety in the Channel will shortly take place.'

### Manchester Airport

*Mr. Andrew Bennett (Stockport North) inquired about the number of discussions between the Department of Trade and the Manchester Airport Authority on the problems of a second runway at Manchester Airport; and whether any studies have been carried out on how the first runway at Manchester Airport can be levelled and resurfaced while a second runway is being built.*

Mr. Shore answered: 'I understand that the Manchester Airport Authority had two meetings, on 24 May 1971 and 4 August 1971, with technical officials of the then Department of Trade and Industry, whose duties passed to the Civil Aviation Authority on its creation in 1972. The Department has carried out no studies. These would be within the responsibility of the airport authority.'

### North Atlantic air market

*Mr. Trotter asked if it was the Secretary of State for Trade's policy that Great Britain should attempt to increase its share of the North Atlantic air market; and if so to what extent.*

'Yes', said Mr. Clinton Davis. 'Our share is increasing this year and we want to see further increases so long as they are profitable for British carriers against the background of the current difficult economic conditions.'

### The Queen's Award to Industry

*Mr. Kenneth Baker (City of Westminster, St. Marylebone) asked how many civil servants are involved in administering the Queen's Award for industry.*

Mr. Deakins answered: 'The complement of The Queen's Award Office is 10. Depending on the volume of applications received, the office is augmented temporarily by a number of full-time and part-time staff for varying periods during the months October to April. This year it is expected there will be a full-time equivalent of 11 additional staff.'

### Imports from Taiwan

*Mr. Jim Marshall (Leicester South) asked if any quotas under tariff headings 60.04 and 60.05 have been exceeded so far in 1975; and for which countries; if action would be taken to ensure that imports in excess of the import quotas for tariff headings 60.04 and 60.05 under the MFA Agreement with Hong Kong and the unilateral action against Taiwan are deducted from the quotas agreed for 1976; and what action has been taken so far in cases where the quotas for tariff headings 60.04 and 60.05 under the MFA Agreement have been exceeded; and what action is intended when future quotas are exceeded.*

Mr. Shore replied: 'Only in the case of Taiwan have some quotas for these headings been exceeded in 1975; and the excess has been set against the quotas for Taiwan for 1976. I would expect to follow the same practice if any other case arose.'

*Mr. Marshall also asked for the latest available figures showing the quantity of imports to date in 1975 from Hong Kong, South Korea, and Taiwan for knitted garments in categories, tariff headings 60.04 and 60.05, in a form comparable to the quota figures in the MFA and allied agreements.*

Mr. Shore gave the following information:

| Country | Tariff heading | Description of goods | Imports January to October 1975 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Hong Kong | ex 60.04 | Knitted shirts | 11,173 thousand |
| Hong Kong | ex 60.04 | Knitted under garments other than shirts | 789 tonnes |
| Hong Kong | ex 60.05 | Jerseys, pullovers, cardigans and the like | 18,738 thousand |
| Hong Kong | ex 60.05 | Other knitted outer garments | 2,340 tonnes |
| South Korea | ex 60.04 | Knitted shirts | 1,428 thousand |
| South Korea | ex 60.04 | Knitted under garments other than shirts | 135 tonnes |
| South Korea | ex 60.05 | Jerseys, pullovers, cardigans and the like | 11,482 thousand |
| South Korea | ex 60.05 | Other knitted outer garments | 401 tonnes |
| Taiwan | ex 60.04 | Knitted shirts | 3,018 thousand |
| Taiwan | ex 60.04 | Knitted under garments other than shirts, tights and panti-hose | 37 tonnes |
| Taiwan | ex 60.05 | Jerseys, pullovers, cardigans and the like | 16,029 thousand |
| Taiwan | ex 60.05 | Other knitted outer garments | 639 tonnes |

Note:
The statistical headings given above correspond as closely as possible to the quota headings, but in some instances are not exactly identical.

### EEC Regional Fund

*Mrs. Winifred Ewing (Moray and Nairn) referred to the EEC decision of 16 October 1975 to grant financial aid to 655 projects from the Regional Fund of 1,234 million UA from which the United Kingdom received 21,231 UA for 236 projects, and asked for a list of (a) successful projects by location, and the amount applied for and the amount granted, and (b) unsuccessful projects by location and the amount applied for.*

Mr. MacKenzie said: 'The amount allocated from the European Regional Development Fund in October 1975 was 160 million UA.

'As far as the UK allocation is concerned the amounts approved were identical with the amounts requested. No applications have been rejected.

'The information requested is as follows':

ENGLAND

| Advance factories | Amount of Regional Fund sought and committed |
|---|---|
| NORTHERN REGION | £ |
| Alnwick | 586 |
| Ashington | 57,567 |
| Ashington | 24,692 |
| Bishop Auckland | 15,170 |
| Blyth | 30,961 |
| Cleator Moor | 4,062 |
| Cleator Moor | 32,446 |
| Consett | 3,946 |
| Consett | 2,025 |
| Consett | 52,116 |
| Consett | 32,463 |
| Cramlington | 2,165 |
| Cramlington | 3,391 |
| Cramlington | 56,098 |
| Crook | 1,269 |
| Hartlepool | 30,859 |
| Hartlepool | 43,714 |
| Hartlepool | 32,886 |
| Houghton | 1,333 |
| Houghton | 34,462 |
| Houghton | 34,712 |
| Houghton | 31,807 |
| Jarrow | 36,337 |
| Newcastle | 28,350 |
| Skelton | 5,757 |
| Stanley | 1,497 |
| Stanley | 38,372 |
| Stanley | 65,391 |
| Sunderland | 1,984 |
| Sunderland | 38,834 |
| Sunderland | 38,834 |
| Team Valley | 40,520 |
| Team Valley | 37,539 |
| Team Valley | 70,945 |
| Teesside | 54,340 |
| Teesside | 56,590 |
| Teesside | 62,324 |
| Tynemouth | 64,927 |
| Tynemouth | 11,484 |
| Tynemouth | 40,261 |
| Tynemouth | 40,254 |
| Tynemouth | 39,835 |
| Workington | 669 |
| Workington | 279 |
| Workington | 4,234 |
| Workington | 58,892 |
| Land purchase at Ashington, Hartlepool and North Seaton | 79,421 |
| | 1,446,600 |

| Advance factories | Amount of Regional Fund sought and committed |
|---|---|
| | £ |
| NORTH WEST | |
| Bromborough | 39,884 |
| Bromborough | 73,253 |
| Bromborough | 64,557 |
| Burnley | 26,370 |
| Irlam | 54,999 |
| Knowsley | 34,233 |
| Knowsley | 31,185 |
| Knowsley | 31,411 |
| Knowsley | 62,658 |
| Knowsley | 60,083 |
| Knowsley | 34,066 |
| Knowsley | 33,957 |
| Knowlsey | 46,509 |
| Knowsley | 47,266 |
| Lancaster | 41,103 |
| Nelson | 26,643 |
| St. Helens | 39,105 |
| Speke | 28,800 |
| Speke | 21,075 |
| Speke | 21,075 |
| Wigan | 30,549 |
| Wigan | 27,162 |
| Wigan | 27,565 |
| Land purchase at Burnley, Lancaster and Speke | 152,792 |
| | 1,056,300 |
| YORKSHIRE AND HUMBERSIDE | |
| Barnsley | 21,154 |
| Barnsley | 23,684 |
| Barnsley | 32,662 |
| Bridlington | 26,445 |
| Bridlington | 29,884 |
| Doncaster | 5,143 |
| Doncaster | 97,926 |
| Doncaster | 6,173 |
| Doncaster | 37,843 |
| Doncaster | 37,843 |
| Hemsworth | 42,606 |
| Hemsworth | 26,695 |
| Hull | 33,907 |
| Hull | 5,300 |
| Hull | 35,033 |
| Hull | 28,599 |
| Normanton | 35,248 |
| Rotherham | 21,983 |
| Land purchases at Doncaster and Normanton | 45,572 |
| | 593,700 |
| EAST MIDLANDS | |
| Chesterfield | 26,238 |
| Clay Cross | 24,390 |
| Land purchases at Clay Cross | 10,272 |
| | 60,900 |
| SOUTH WEST | |
| Callington | 21,762 |
| Camborne | 1,318 |
| Camborne | 334 |
| Camborne | 546 |
| Camborne | 34,744 |
| Newquay | 5,206 |
| Newquay | 21,114 |
| Penryn | 907 |
| Penryn | 29,048 |
| Penryn | 29,045 |
| Penryn | 29,044 |
| Plymouth | 31,133 |
| Plymouth | 22,938 |
| Truro | 2,092 |
| West Penwith | 230 |
| West Penwith | 606 |
| West Penwith | 21,847 |
| Land purchases at Callington, Camborne, Lee Mills, Newquay, Penryn and West Penwith | 47,186 |
| | 299,100 |
| SCOTLAND | |
| Arbroath | 12,600 |
| Ayr | 72,540 |
| Beith | 42,750 |
| Bellshill | 30,480 |
| Blantyre | 35,820 |
| Bothwell Park | 57,240 |
| Bothwell Park | 30,300 |
| Buckie | 960 |
| Clydebank | 1,800 |
| Clydebank | 7,500 |
| Clydebank | 405 |
| Clydebank | 62,400 |
| Coatbridge | 11,550 |
| Coatbridge | 57,120 |
| Cowlairs | 6,300 |
| Cowlairs | 300 |
| Cowlairs | 15,810 |
| Cowlairs | 60,420 |
| Cumnock | 34,410 |
| East Queenslie | 117,570 |
| East Queenslie | 65,670 |
| East Queenslre | 9,750 |
| Edinburgh | 102,900 |
| Falkirk | 1,350 |
| Falkirk | 77,550 |
| Fort William | 9 |
| Galashiels | 38 |
| Germiston | 45,390 |
| Greenock | 600 |
| Greenock | 43,050 |
| Hillington | 750 |
| Hillington | 4,680 |
| Hillington | 8,040 |
| Inchinnan | 9,000 |
| Inchinnan | 5,010 |
| Inchinnan | 56,460 |
| Inverurie | 1,500 |
| Kilsyth | 600 |
| Kirkcaldy | 34,770 |
| Kirkconnel | 1,500 |
| Lanark | 330 |
| Lesmahagow | 390 |
| Leven | 33,600 |
| Leven | 600 |
| Motherwell | 15,510 |
| Motherwell | 37,590 |
| Port Glasgow | 41,430 |
| Sanquhar | 5 |
| Shieldhall | 79,230 |
| Shotts | 2,010 |
| Shotts | 60,000 |
| Stranraer | 772 |
| Tweedbank | 41,130 |
| Vale of Leven | 69,390 |
| Wester Gourdie | 300 |
| Wester Gourdie | 6,450 |
| Wester Gourdie | 35,580 |
| Wester Gourdie | 82,800 |
| Land purchase at Cambuslang and Tweedbank | 70,891 |
| | 1,704,900 |
| WALES | |
| Aberbargoed Rhymney | 27,000 |
| Abercarn | 78,300 |
| Afan Valley | 9,000 |
| Bangor | 30,000 |
| Bridgend | 99,000 |
| Brynmawr | 78,900 |
| Caernarvon | 27,000 |
| Cardiff | 68,700 |
| Cwmdraw | 27,000 |
| Cwnfelinfach | 81,300 |
| Cwntillery | 61,500 |
| Fishguard | 45,000 |
| Gaerwen | 42,000 |
| Gaerwen | 46,200 |
| Gwawn Cae Curwen | 38,700 |
| Hirwaun | 62,700 |
| Hirwaun | 69,900 |
| Kenfig | 137,700 |
| Llandone | 76,800 |
| Maesteg | 40,800 |
| Penyfan | 90,000 |
| Penyfan | 22,500 |
| Pontardulais | 40,500 |
| Portmadoc | 43,800 |
| Pwllheli | 20,400 |
| Rhondda | 41,100 |
| Rhondda | 4,800 |
| Rhyl | 9,900 |
| Rhymney Penallta | 80,400 |
| Rogerstone | 81,900 |
| Tarfarnanbach (group) | 482,100 |
| Tredegar | 57,600 |
| Waterton | 84,000 |
| Wrexham | 88,200 |
| Ynyscedwyn | 40,500 |
| Land purchases at Bangor, Blaenavon, Caernarvon, Capel Hendre, Cardiff, Holyhead, Llanwrst, Maesteg, Pembroke, Rhyl, Rhymney Valley | 156,000 |
| | 2,491,200 |
| NORTHERN IRELAND | |
| Newry | 173,211 |
| Strabane | 90,000 |
| Omagh | 60,000 |
| Londonderry | 75,000 |
| *Industrial sites* | |
| West Belfast | 374,700 |
| Newry | 67,500 |
| Londonderry | 158,100 |
| Strabane | 195,000 |
| | 1,193,511 |
| Total for All Projects in the UK | 8,846,211 |

## Industrial investment

*Mr. John Pardoe (North Cornwall) asked for a list of all those various measures designed to encourage industrial investment introduced since 1964 showing the date when they were announced in Parliament and the date when they became operative and the date when they ceased to operate.*

Mr. MacKenzie gave the following information:

INVESTMENT INCENTIVES INTRODUCED IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AFTER 1964

| Incentive | Announced or presented to Parliament | Introduced | Ceased to operate |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Investment Allowance against tax* | | | |
| Basic rate 30% | Before 1964 | | 16.1.66 |
| *Initial tax allowance (percentage rate)* | | | |
| Machinery and plant, Free depreciation Development Area – 10% elsewhere | Before 1964 | | 16.1.66 |
| Industrial Buildings 5% | Before 1964 | | 16.1.66 |
| Machinery and plant not qualifying for investment Grants 30% | — | 17.1.66 | 26.10.70 |
| Industrial Buildings 15% | — | 17.1.66 | 5.4.70 |
| Industrial Buildings: | | | |
| a increased to 40% for development and intermediate areas | 14.4.70 | 6.4.70 | 11.11.74 |
| b increased to 30% elsewhere | 14.4.70 | 6.4.70 | 21.3.72 |
| Mining Works in development areas | 27.10.70 | 27.10.70 | — |
| Industrial Buildings 40% all areas | 21.3.72 | 22.3.72 | 12.11.74 |
| Industrial Buildings 50% all areas | 12.11.74 | 13.11.74 | — |
| *First year tax allowance (percentage rate)* | | | |
| Machinery and plant: | | | |
| a 100% for new non-mobile machinery and plant in development areas | 27.10.70 | 27.10.70 | — |
| b 60% for other machinery and plant | 27.10.70 | 27.10.70 | 19.7.71 |
| Machinery and plant: 60% rate increased to 80% | 20.7.71 | 20.7.71 | 21.3.72 |
| Machinery and plant: 80% rate increased to 100% | 21.3.72 | 22.3.72 | — |
| Thermal insulation added to existing industrial buildings – 100% rate | 12.11.74 | 13.11.74 | — |
| *Investment Grants* | | | |
| Basic Rate 20%-40% Development Areas | 16.1.66 | 17.1.66 | 31.12.66 |
| Basic Rate 25%-45% Development Areas | — | 1.1.67 | 31.12.68 |
| Basic Rate 20%-40% Development Areas | — | 1.1.69 | 26.10.70 |
| *Regional Development Grants* | | | |
| 22% Special Development Areas, 20% Development Areas/20% Intermediate Areas (Industrial Buildings only) | 21.3.72 | 22.3.72 | — |
| *Selective Assistance under the Industry Act* | | | |
| Mainly Section 7 and 8 assistance | — | 9.8.72 | — |

# Parliament continued

*Mr. Pardoe also wanted to know the loss to public revenue and the cost to public funds of all these measures.*

Mr. MacKenzie said: 'I regret that all of the figures requested are not readily available and could not be obtained without disproportionate time and effort. The table below was prepared for another purpose and shows the expenditure on certain investment incentives, but not in precisely the form requested.'

GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE ON INVESTMENT INCENTIVES

| Financial years | Regional Development Grants | Investment Grants | Section 7 Industry Act 1972 | Section 8 Industry Act 1972 | Industrial Investment Schemes |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1967/68 | — | 288 | — | — | — |
| 1968/69 | — | 437 | — | — | 23 |
| 1969/70 | — | 544 | — | — | 13 |
| 1970/71 | — | 540 | — | — | 15 |
| 1971/72 | — | 461 | — | — | 12 |
| 1972/73 | 8 | 295 | below 0.1 | 9 | 8 |
| 1973/74 | 89 | 191 | 25 | 16 | 4 |
| 1974/75 | 192 | 101 | 40 | 26 | — |

Note:
The figures exclude public corporations and any repayments.

**Trade Descriptions Act**

*Mr. Max Madden (Sowerby) asked: 'How many prosecutions each year have there been so far under the Trades and Merchandising Act, and for which offences?'*

Mr. Williams replied: 'The following successful prosecutions under the Trade Descriptions Act 1968 have been notified by the enforcement authorities:'

| Year ending 30 November | Type of offence: Misdescriptions of goods | False indications of the prices of goods | False statements about services, accommodation or facilities | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1969 | 313 | 191 | 17 | 521 |
| 1970 | 625 | 407 | 100 | 1,132 |
| 1971 | 689 | 274 | 125 | 1,088 |
| 1972 | 867 | 412 | 186 | 1,465 |
| 1973 | 919 | 463 | 182 | 1,564 |
| 1974 | 781 | 404 | 129 | 1,314 |
| 11 months ending 31 October 1975 | 750 | 359 | 117 | 1,226 |

**The Post Office**

*Mr. King asked for details of what indicators of performance the Post Office are now supplying to the Department of Industry, as referred to in the memorandum submitted by the Department to the Select Committee on Nationalised Industries.*

Mr. MacKenzie answered: 'The performance indicators, which the Post Office supply to my Department quarterly for each of the four Businesses (Posts, Telecommunications, Giro and Remittance Services and Data Processing Service) are of two kinds. Financial indicators include latest figures of income, profit, investment and borrowing. Indicators of physical performance cover the volume and growth trend of business, the quality of service and manpower.'

**Aircraft and Shipbuilding Industries Bill**

*Mr. Tebbit asked if the Secretary of State for Industry has yet chosen the chairman elect of the board of his proposed state aerospace construction corporation.*

Mr. Kaufman said: 'My Rt. Hon. Friend hopes to announce initial appointments shortly after the Aircraft and Shipbuilding Industries Bill is given its Second Reading.'

**Energy prices**

*Mr. Mike Thomas (Newcastle upon Tyne East) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection to make a reference to the NCC on the effect of energy prices on people of low incomes.*

Mrs. Williams' reply is published on page 696.

## Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor should be addressed to the Editor, *Trade and Industry*, Room 437, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET, and *not* to HMSO.

**Price Code: investment relief**

*Sir George Young (Ealing, Acton) asked if the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection would extend the period of relief now being given under paragraph 79(4) of the Price Code until the expiry of the code in its present form, and if she intends to introduce further investment relief under the price code for those enterprises whose investment year expires on or after 1 December 1975.*

Mrs. Williams replied: 'Firms are entitled to continue their present investment relief until 31 March 1976. I intend to amend the Price Code to ensure that relief is available between 1 April 1976 and the end of the present phase of counter-inflation policy on 31 July 1976. I shall shortly issue a Consultative Document with detailed proposals.'

**DPCP employees in Scotland**

*Mr. Gordon Wilson (Dundee East) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection to list the offices and numbers of relevant employees for which she has executive or advisory responsibility in each of the following: Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh and Glasgow.*

Mrs. Williams said: 'In Glasgow my Department has two hire purchase inspectors, the Office for Scotland of the Price Commission has 17 staff, the Transport Users Consultative Committee for Scotland four staff and the Post Office Users Council for Scotland two part-time staff. In Edinburgh the Office of Fair Trading has four staff and the Scottish Gas Consumers Council eight staff. None of the organisations for which I have executive or advisory responsibility maintains an office in Aberdeen or Dundee.'

**DPCP appointments in Yorkshire and Humberside**

*Mr. Richard Wainwright (Colne Valley) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection to list the various bodies in Yorkshire and Humberside to which she makes appointments.*

Mrs. Williams said: 'I make appointments to the following bodies based in the Yorkshire and Humberside Region:

The Yorkshire Electricity Consultative Council
The North Eastern Gas Consumers' Council
The Transport Users' Consultative Committee for the North Eastern Area
The Transport Users Consultative Committee for Yorkshire.'

# Wednesday, 3 December

**Committee of Inquiry into Industrial Democracy**

*Mr. Ian Wrigglesworth (Teesside, Thornaby) inquired about the membership of the Committee of Inquiry into Industrial Democracy.*

Mr. Shore's reply is published on page 687.

**The Post Office**

*Mr. King asked how much supplementary depreciation was charged to bring the annual depreciation charge into line with depreciation on replacement costs for the post services, for telecommunications and for the Post Office as a whole in 1974–75; and what additional charges would be necessary to adjust the supplementary charges in previous years for the subsequent changes in price levels.*

Mr. MacKenzie said that the supplementary depreciation allowed for 1974-5 is quoted in the Post Office Report and Accounts. He gave the figures as follows:

| | £ million |
|---|---|
| Posts | 5.8 |
| Telecommunications | 124.3 |
| Total | 130.2 |

'Turning to the second part of this question,' said Mr. MacKenzie, 'the Post Office tell me that pending full study of current cost accounting, it could not be answered without disproportionate effort.'

*Mr. King asked for the latest figures available, and figures for each of the years since 1969, of the number of postal employees in the Post Office, the number of letters handled and the ratio of letters per employee expressed as an index number.*

Mr. MacKenzie gave the following table derived from the Post Office's Report and Accounts:

| Year | 1969/70 | 1970/71 | 1971/72 | 1972/73 | 1973/74 | 1974/75 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Letters and parcels† (millions) | 11,408 | 10,681 | 10,739 | 10,984 | 11,205 | 11,078 |
| Mails operations staff*† | 126,111 | 125,526 | 124,654 | 123,748 | 121,408 | 127,121 |
| Index of letters and parcels handled per mails operations employee 1969/70 = 100 | 100 | 92 | 94 | 96 | 100 | 95 |

Source: PO Reports and Accounts.
* Excluding Headquarters staff.
† It is not possible to distinguish between staff handling letters and staff handling parcels.
Notes:
(a) Mail volume statistics are based partly on sampling procedures and relate to the whole year in question.
(b) Staff figures relate to a fixed end-year date.
(c) Hours worked – including overtime – vary from year to year.

**Domestic heating oil**

*Dr. Edmund Marshall (Goole) wanted to know the present position in respect of the introduction of statutory control by meter of deliveries of domestic heating oil.*

Mr. Williams answered: 'In consultation with representatives of the various interests affected, my Department has been preparing technical regulations which will exercise statutory control, under the Weights and Measures Act, 1963, of the meters used for deliveries of domestic heating oil; the regulations will also bring under metrological control the bulk deliveries of other liquid fuels. Drafting of the technical provisions is at an advanced stage but further substantial work remains to be done. I expect regulations to be laid before Parliament towards the end of 1976.'

**Safety in the home**

*Mr. John Hannam (Exeter) asked what research is being sponsored into design of kitchen equipment to provide greater safety to children from accidental scalding.*

Mr. Williams said: 'Safety in design is generally a matter for the relevant industry as a part of the normal research and development process. The emphasis of my Department's research into the safety of consumer products used in the home is on identifying hazards rather than designing equipment. Once the hazard is known, appropriate action can be taken to improve the safety of a product. We shall be producing a consultative document in the New Year to enable us to consider whether it is possible to improve the methods of dealing with safety of products.'

*Mr. Hannam asked for the estimated number of accidental scaldings to children under the age of two years each year.*

Mr. Williams said: 'No national statistics relating to such accidents are available. In 1973, the most recent year for which information is available, there were nine fatal home accidents in England and Wales involving children under five years due to scalds and corrosive liquids. From information obtained from the recent feasibility study on the collection of data on home accidents we estimate that there are about 4,000 scalding accidents annually involving children under the age of two requiring hospital treatment. In the summer, in the light of data collected in the study, my Department produced a short publicity film for free television transmission about the scalding hazards of kettles. We are making a further study of home accidents resulting in burns and scalds injuries to identify the contributory causes.'

*Mr. Hannam then asked the current annual expenditure on research into the prevention of accidents which cause severe burning, especially to young children.*

Mr. Williams replied: 'A number of Departments sponsor research into various aspects of fire hazards. Much of this work, which is currently costing around £800,000 annually, will have some relevance to the incidence of burns accidents to children and adults. My Department's expenditure this year for research into the safety of consumer products generally is £77,500.'

*'What is the current annual expenditure on educating the public on the dangers to young children within the home, in particular of accidental scalding in the kitchen?' asked Mr. Hannam.*

'My Department is spending about £20,000 on home safety and firework safety publicity in the current financial year,' said Mr. Williams. 'In addition we are making a grant of £16,500 to the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents to assist their production of home safety material. The Home Office campaign "Keep Matches Away from Children" earlier this year cost about £250,000.'

**Fire precautions**

*Mr. Robert Hicks (Bodmin) asked the Secretary of State for Trade: 'What are the sources of finance, both UK and EEC, that are available to hotels and guest houses for expansion programmes, and improvement schemes, including work carried out to meet the requirements of the Fire Precautions Act 1971; what conditions have to be met; and whether his department have made representations to the EEC Commission for the minimum figure of approximately £21,000 for advances from the Regional Development Fund to be reduced?'*

Mr. Shore answered: 'Other than from normal commercial sources, assistance is available under various schemes run by the three national Tourist Boards, the Northern Ireland Department of Commerce, the Highlands and Islands Development Board and the Council for Small Industries in Rural Areas. In each case the prime condition is that they must improve tourism prospects (or in the case of the Highlands and Islands contribute to the economic or social development of the area); and the project must be situated either in a development area or a special development area.

'Loans for small premises are available under the Fire Precautions (Loans) Act, 1973.

'Loans are available from the European Investment Bank but normally the project will be expected to contribute significantly to regional development within the Community or to the development of the Community itself. Receipts from the European Regional Development Fund for industry and service industry projects are not paid to promoters.

'The figure of £21,000 (which only sets the figure of minimum investment) has been accepted by all Member States, including the United Kingdom.

'I will write further to the Honourable Member about the more detailed conditions and considerations taken into account under each scheme.'

**Recycling waste materials**

*Mr. Richard Wainwright (Colne Valley) inquired about plans for further encouraging the recycling of waste materials.*

Mr. Kaufman answered: 'This Department, advised by the Waste Management Advisory Council which was established last year, will continue to keep under review opportunities for encouraging the recycling of waste materials. The WMAC and its subsidiary bodies have been identifying priorities for action and the Council will publish a progress report in January.'

**Paper machine exports**

*Mr. Frank R. White (Bury and Radcliffe) asked for information on the value of paper machine exports from the UK per year for the last 10 years.*

Mr. Deakins gave the following information for total exports of paper making and paper converting machinery.

| | £ million |
|---|---|
| 1966 | 13.2 |
| 1967 | 18.4 |
| 1968 | 19.9 |
| 1969 | 23.1 |
| 1970 | 29.8 |
| 1971 | 46.1 |
| 1972 | 44.5 |
| 1973 | 30.2 |
| 1974 | 44.9 |
| 1975 Jan. to Oct. | 46.9 |

**Cotton imports from Taiwan**

*Mr. N. Winterton wanted figures showing the total value of the volume of cotton imports from Taiwan for each of the months in 1975.*

Mr. Deakins gave the following information for cotton yarn, thread and fabrics:

| 1975 | Metric tons | £'000 cif |
|---|---|---|
| January | 364 | 376 |
| February | 138 | 145 |
| March | 97 | 98 |
| April | 171 | 185 |
| May | 151 | 144 |
| June | 109 | 101 |
| July | 98 | 97 |
| August | 62 | 70 |
| September | 111 | 112 |
| October | 135 | 161 |

**Whale products**

*Sir John Langford-Holt (Shrewsbury) asked on what date the controls on certain whale products, announced on 15 March 1973, became effective; and whether all customs officers responsible for enforcing controls were aware of this date.*

'Import controls on certain whale products came into operation on 16 March 1975,' said Mr. Deakins. 'As HM Customs and Excise are responsible for enforcing import controls, port officers are always informed at the time about any new measures.'

*Sir John asked which primary whale products can be imported to the UK without a licence.*

'The main products are sperm oil, ambergris, spermaceti wax, teeth and bones,' said Mr. Deakins.

**Aircraft noise**

*Mrs. Margaret Bain (East Dunbartonshire) asked what progress has been made towards the imple-*

*mentation of noise certification standards for aircraft.*

Mr. Clinton Davis answered: 'The noise certification regulations have been amended so that new production of the older types of subsonic jet aircraft must meet the noise certification requirements as from 1 January 1976. No decision has yet been taken on the possibility of bringing older aircraft now flying within the scope of the regulations, but studies are continuing both domestically and at an international level.'

*Mrs. Bain also asked how many houses surrounding each British airport have been granted either full or partial grants towards soundproofing.*

Mr. Clinton Davis said: 'Grants have been paid for noise insulation of dwellings by the airport owners at four British airports. Those at the British Airports Authority airports of Heathrow and Gatwick under schemes prescribed by Statutory Instrument; those at the local authority airports of Luton and Manchester under schemes set up under Local Act powers. The number of dwellings for which grants have been approved to-date is as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Heathrow | 14,000 |
| Gatwick | 950 |
| Luton | 1,480 |
| Manchester | 2,950 |

# Thursday, 4 December

**Price of beer**

*Mr. Nicholas Winterton (Macclesfield) asked if the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection would introduce measures to ensure that, if the original gravities of beer are reduced by brewers without notification to the consumer, prices are lowered accordingly.*

'The Price Code already provides for price reductions, or for price increases to be disallowed or modified, where the quality of a product has been reduced,' said Mr. Maclennan.

**'Industrial Productivity – Scope for Improvement'**

*Mr. J. W. Rooker (Birmingham, Perry Barr) asked the Secretary of State for Industry what discussions, and with whom, his Department has held following the publication by the West Midlands Economic Planning Council of the document, 'Industrial Productivity – Scope for Improvement.'*

Mr. MacKenzie answered: 'My officials are involved in discussions on follow-up action, particularly in a working party to consider the prospects for establishing a productivity improvement centre. These are held under the chairmanship of the author of the report and involve representatives of Government Departments, the University of Birmingham, and local industry and commerce.'

**Merseyside**

*Mr. Anthony Steen (Liverpool, Wavertree) asked what Government grants are available to companies seeking to establish factories or offices on Merseyside.*

Mr. MacKenzie answered: 'Merseyside is a Special Development Area and the full range of regional incentives is available to firms setting up new projects or expanding their operations in the area. These include Regional Development Grants at 22 per cent for new buildings and plant and machinery; Selective Financial Assistance under Section 7 of the 1972 Industry Act, including service industry removal assistance; Government factories and, in some cases, rent free periods; and the Regional Employment Premium. Companies can also benefit from nationwide assistance both for accelerated capital projects and modernisation schemes, and for schemes for the modernisation of particular industries.'

**Financial assistance to industry**

*Mr. John Stanley (Tonbridge and Malling) asked what amounts were paid out under Section 7 of the Industry Act 1972 in each of the financial years since the Act came into force; and for the estimated amount to be paid out in the current financial year.*

Mr. Kaufman gave the information as follows:

| | | £m at historic prices and net of repayments |
|---|---|---|
| 1972–73 | Expenditure | 8.4 |
| 1973–74 | Expenditure | 36.8 |
| 1974–75 | Expenditure | 80.3 |
| 1975–76 | Forecast outturn | 91.2 |

**NEB**

*Mr. J. W. Rooker (Birmingham, Perry Barr) wanted to know the average age of those so far appointed to the NEB.*

'53 years and six months,' said Mr. Kaufman.

**Post Office Review Committee**

*Mr. Trotter asked if the Secretary of State for Industry intends to publish the report of the Post Office Review Committee when it is submitted to him, and if the terms of reference for the Committee enable it to include consideration of the division of the Corporation into separate entities for the postal and telephone businesses.*

Mr. MacKenzie answered 'Yes', to both questions.

**Postal rates for magazines**

*Mr. Trotter asked for a comparison of inland postal rate for a magazine weighing 8 oz with the rate in other European countries.*

Mr. Kaufman replied: 'Because different conditions apply to the posting of magazines in various European countries, a simple comparison of charges would not necessarily be meaningful. With this reservation, charges reckoned at current rate of exchange in countries for which the information is immediately available and in respect of a magazine weighing 250g, are as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| United Kingdom | 16.0 |
| Belgium | 5.0 |
| Denmark | 8.1 |
| France | 24.5 |
| Germany (Federal Republic) | 13.2 |
| Irish Republic | 9.0 |
| Italy | 9.1 |
| Luxembourg | 3.1 |
| Netherlands | 24.0 |

**North Sea supply boats**

*Mr. Douglas Henderson (East Aberdeenshire) inquired about obligations on owners of North Sea supply boats regarding the nationality of the seamen employed.*

Mr. Clinton Davis answered: 'The Master, Chief Officer, Chief Engineer and Radio Officer of every merchant ship registered in the United Kingdom are required to be of British nationality. There are no statutory nationality requirements covering other members of the crew but in respect of ships owned by members of the General Council of British Shipping the employment of foreign crews is regulated through industrial agreements with the National Union of Seamen. Some North Sea supply ships owned by non-members of the Council are not subject to these agreements nor do they apply to ships not registered in the United Kingdom.'

# Friday, 5 December

**Timber imports**

*Mr. John Cope (South Gloucestershire) asked what percentage of timber used in the UK is imported.*

Mr. Kaufman told him that the figure in 1974 was an estimated 87 per cent.

**Buyers' commission at auction sales**

*Mr. Andrew Faulds (Warley East) asked when the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection expects to complete her inquiries regarding the buyer's commission at Christie's and Sotheby's auction sales.*

'The Price Commission are inquiring into how the buyers' commission stands under the Price Code,' replied Mrs. Williams. 'The matter raises complex legal questions which have not yet been resolved. I have asked the Chairman of the Price Commission to let My Hon. Friend know the outcome.'

**Concorde**

*Mr. Cope inquired about the estimated effect of the Concorde programme on manning levels in BAC Commercial Aircraft Division between now and next May.*

'The manning levels at British Aircraft Corporation's Commercial Aircraft Division are primarily a matter for the judgement of the company, in the light of the work available,' said Mr. Kaufman.

'I understand that virtually the whole of the reduction in the Commercial Aircraft Division workforce which the company are considering is accounted for by the diminishing requirements of the Concorde development and production programme.'

## Bankruptcy records for England and Wales

Details of bankruptcies in England and Wales are maintained in a public search room at Room 901. Thomas More Building, Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2JY.

Searches can be made personally or by an agent and a fee of 25p in respect of each bankruptcy inquiry is payable at the time.

# BOTB News

## Government–industry co-operation on export promotion

A closer relationship between Government and industry on export promotion – including the assessment of opportunities and the planning of strategy – was the broad theme of two papers put recently to the National Economic Development Council by Peter Shore, Secretary of State for Trade. The papers analysed the main patterns of UK trade geographically and by broad product areas, listed opportunities and developed a specific export strategy based on close co-operation and planning between Government and major exporters.

The Secretary of State emphasised the growing business of exporting whole projects – particularly to the OPEC countries – and argued that co-operation between Government and industry is especially important because in so many of the target markets governments are the main buyers. The main elements of Government export strategy, he suggested, would be to strengthen the exporting industries and sectors; to ensure that external commercial relations support export-orientated policies; to provide a competitive range of export credit guarantee facilities; to provide the best sort of direct services to export; to increase direct political support to exports, e.g. by the use of Ministerial visits abroad; and to develop consultation in greater depth with the top exporters.

The central theme in these papers – the relationship between Government and industry – was discussed by Mr. Shore in a speech to the Metallurgical Plantmakers' Federation on 4 December (see also page 717). 'In the context of particular markets this relationship has been undergoing a significant change,' he said. 'Many of the OPEC and other developing countries, and the state-trading countries of Eastern Europe require a much greater degree of direct involvement on the part of the Governments of supplier countries. That is why we have made co-operative agreements and arrangements for standing consultative machinery with a number of these countries – including, of course, Brazil, Saudi Arabia and, I hope soon, Mexico.

'Through these arrangements we are seeking to directly assist British firms in their business with these countries, and I hope, of course, that industries like yours will take full advantage of them. But for this very reason, their efficiency depends on the development of a close relationship, a close dialogue, between the Government and the industries concerned.

'I feel we must work to extend this relationship and dialogue to other aspects of the generation of exports, both within the frameworks of the industrial strategy programme and elsewhere, including the valuable fora provided by the BOTB and newly-created BOTAC. To discuss and agree appropriate action – such questions as how to overcome the constraints which exporting industries experience the priorities Government policies are designed to encourage, even how we can increase the already valuable contribution to exports of the public sector.

'Indeed, at the NEDC meeting yesterday, we discussed the importance of the nationalised industries' involvement in the export field. I – and I think the public corporations would agree – see such involvement as not being in competition with the private sector, but in partnership – a partnership designed to ensure that the resources of both public corporations and their suppliers in the United Kingdom are fully exploited in our export markets. Many are already contributing but there are large possibilities for BSC, British Rail, the BAA and indeed the NHS.

'In addition to increasing the overseas opportunities for supplier industries, such a partnership can, as I see it, yield additional benefits in the form of a better understanding of the problems of the private sector as a supplier to nationalised industry in the UK'.

## Record increase in food exports predicted

British exports of processed foods in 1975 should, on the basis of the first nine months' figures show a 28 per cent increase in value over 1974. If sustained this will create a record, Eric Deakins, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Trade, said on 3 December.

Mr. Deakins was addressing the annual lunch of the British Food Export Council in London. He continued: 'While increased prices due to the continuing increase in the price of raw materials are a contributory factor in this achievement, there has been a growth of volume too.

'Our best overseas market by value is the Netherlands where our exports this year should be about £41 million against £26 million last year – an increase of getting on for 58 per cent.

The next biggest markets for our processed foods are the USA, West Germany, France (where our exports are up 70 per cent this year over last), and Canada.

'People on the continent enjoy good food. More and more of it is good British food. Welcome progress is being made by our exporters in sales to the original members of the European Community. Exports of processed foods to Belgium, France, Germany, Italy and the Netherlands are up from £72 million in 1973 to an estimated £119 million this year.

'Now, you don't get results like this without a lot of hard work, not only on the part of individual firms, but also on the part of the British Food Export Council.

'The Council takes its responsibility for the encouragement and promotion of British exports of processed foodstuffs very seriously. I think it is rightly regarded, both by my officials and by the processed food industry as an extremely efficient and well-managed body.

'The close contact which the Council maintains with the British Overseas Trade Board, through my Department, and the results which are being achieved provide the sort of success story which I would dearly love to see repeated in every sector.

'The help which the official export services have been able to provide, for instance in

Seen in conversation at the annual lunch of the British Food Export Council on 3 December, left, Mr. J. S. Rooke, until recently chief executive of the British Overseas Trade Board, centre, Mr. D. F. J. Shattock, chairman of the BFEC and a member of the BOTB's European Trade Committee, with Sir Alex Alexander, president of BFEC.

connection with inward and outward missions and joint ventures at overseas trade fairs has, I am sure, been a factor in your success. It is therefore, encouraging to see the momentum for export promotion being maintained.

'I understand that in January the Council is sponsoring a sample show at the World Trade Centre for UK buying houses for West Africa and that already seven outward missions are in the pipeline for 1976.

'Your industry has agreed with the BOTB 11 major markets throughout the world which have been identified as potentially the best markets for exports of British processed foods and where BOTB promotional assistance would be welcomed.

'As many of you will know, these markets were chosen through the BOTB's system of selecting markets called PSE (Product Selection Exercise). Within the PSE the European Trade Committee and the Commercial Diplomatic Officers got together to identify sectors for special concentration of effort. Pooling their knowledge of the markets, industry and the posts came up with four major European markets – Belgium, the Netherlands, Sweden and West Germany – which they considered merited the biggest sales drives.'

The Duke of Kent chatting to Sheffield businessmen and other BOTB members at the first of the regional export conferences held at Sheffield on 4 December. Centre is Derek Hart who presented the audio-visual displays for the case studies at the conference.

## New members of Committee on Invisible Exports

The following associations have joined the Committee on Invisible Exports:

The Association of Consulting Engineers
The Corporation of Insurance Brokers
Lloyd's Insurance Brokers' Association.

They will be represented by:

Sir Ralph Freeman, CVO, CBE (Chairman, The Association of Consulting Engineers)
Mr. Francis Perkins, DSC (President, The Corporation of Insurance Brokers)
Mr. I. R. Binney (Chairman, Lloyd's Insurance Brokers' Association).

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# Exhibitions and Fairs

## Europort – marine equipment at Amsterdam

**From A. Hazebroek, Commercial Officer, British Embassy, The Hague:** In contrast to the earlier climate of continuous expansion in the maritime industry, the 1975 Europort exhibition, held in Amsterdam from 11-15 November, took place at a time of recession in both the shipbuilding and shipping industries. This caused speculation as to how the event would be affected, but there were just as many participants as at any time before. All 50,000m² of exhibition space were taken up, while the organisers claim that another 3,000m² could have been sold. Space has already been sold for the 1976 event which would seem to underline the confidence firms concerned have in the future of the marine industry.

As usual, the largest percentage of exhibitors (30 per cent) came from the Netherlands, followed by West Germany (18½ per cent) and Great Britain (14 per cent). The total number of participants was 425, the same as last year. This being the so-called 'engine year', the number of visitors was considerably higher than in 1974 – 74,461 as against 64,289.

British official participation in the form of a joint-venture sponsored by the BMEC, accommodated some 21 firms who displayed a variety of marine equipment of lively interest to visitors. British-made marine equipment still has a reputation for quality in this country, and exhibitors were satisfied with the attention it drew, despite the current unfavourable trends in the industry. The exhibits included main propulsion machinery, engine-room auxiliaries, communications equipment, automation control and monitoring systems, safety and rescue equipment, galley equipment, blasting and cleaning equipment, cargo-handling gear and small craft.

Part of the British joint-venture stand at Europort.

### Favourable comments

Although not all joint-venture exhibitors were equally satisfied, the general tone of their comments was favourable, while some of them were consoled by the thought that there was only limited competition for the products they made. Others saw a more positive future and took the opportunity to establish valuable new contacts at the exhibition. Several British firms had new products which they introduced for the first time at this event. Among these were an integrated navigation system, high-output diesel engines of 400-1,600 bhp, and an automatic pilot specially developed for fishing boats. Outside the joint venture, 13 British firms took part on their own and many more were represented by their Dutch agents.

There were official government stands also from Canada, Denmark, Czechoslovakia, East and West Germany, France, Japan and Poland.

Despite an attempt at optimism, the marine industry obviously sees an uncertain future ahead. It is generally agreed that there is a worldwide over-capacity in shipbuilding. So many countries started their own shipbuilding industries after 1945 and are now faced with a substantially reduced demand for future tonnage. A system of national subsidies to keep all the existing shipbuilding industries alive is not the answer to the problem. It would seem inevitable that a number of yards worldwide will have to close their gates. Nevertheless, ships and shipping will continue to be needed, and there is going to be a continued future demand for product carriers and general and specialised cargo ships.

The marine equipment industry will be affected by these changes. Quality and competitiveness will count more than ever in the period ahead. The products of the British marine equipment industry would seem well qualified to meet this challenge, but marketing and sales policies should be up-to-date and adapted as necessary. If this can be done, we can look forward with confidence to future British participation in this exhibition.

## Paris photographic and optical exhibition

**From Robert Hyde, Second Secretary (Commercial), British Embassy, Paris:** The 31st International Photographic, Cinema and Optical Exhibition was held at the Porte de Versailles Exhibition Park in Paris from 8-16 November. The attendance was 130,000, compared to 96,000 at the previous exhibition in 1973. Of a total of 203 exhibitors, the joint-venture sponsored by the British Photographic Export Group featured 24 companies, the largest foreign group at the exhibition.

Most of the British exhibitors fell into the industrial photography category, and a number of them reported excellent business during the exhibition. Notable among these were Ademco, with their presses for mounting photographs on canvas; de Vere, showing large industrial enlargers, and Phototechnology, who attracted tremendous interest with their new colour-developing system which gives striking economies in the development process.

Exports of British photographic and cinema products in the first nine months of 1975 more than maintained the level of 1974, and although the Paris exhibition cannot compare in size and scope with the biennial World Fair of Photography (Photokina) in Cologne, the recent exhibition will certainly have made its contribution.

# INQUIRIES ON KOREAN PRODUCTS

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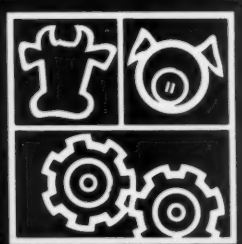
# agromek

International exhibition of agricultural mechanization equipment, cattle and pigs.



Advanced technical machinery and equipment and select breeders – cattle and pigs – will welcome you in the 10 halls covering 30,000 sqm. at the Exhibition Centre of Herning. Agromek '76 presents the entire agricultural machinery and mechanization trade in one common exhibition which enables both Danish and foreign buyers to get an overall survey of the market.

In co-operation with the Danish Farmers Association an exhibition of select breeders including approx. 100 head of cattle and approx. 30 pigs from the best Danish herds will be presented for the first time.

Agromek '76 is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Information about Agromek '76 can be obtained from the Secretariat: Agromek '76, 35 D Holmetoften, DK-8270 Højbjerg. Denmark.

Organizers:
Danish Manufacturers of Internal Agricultural Mechanization Equipment and The Association of Danish Manufacturers of Agricultural Machinery.

27.-31. januar 1976 i Herning

## British success at US automotive show

**From Harry D. Hall, Vice-Consul (Commercial), British Consulate General, Chicago:** Sixteen British companies had a most successful time at the Automotive Parts and Accessories Show at McCormick Place in Chicago from 18-20 November. The show was officially opened by Chicago's Mayor Daley.

The 16 British firms, jointly sponsored by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders and the BOTB, experienced one of the busiest and largest shows in which they have ever participated in the United States. This seventh annual show was reported to be the largest-ever staged by the American Automotive Parts and Accessories Association. The show lasted three days and was visited by more than 16,000 buyers from all parts of the United States, Canada and overseas. They were able to view a wide variety of more than 100,000 different products, ranging from car scrub-brushes to the most sophisticated in-dash radio-stereo decks, made by the 582 companies exhibiting.

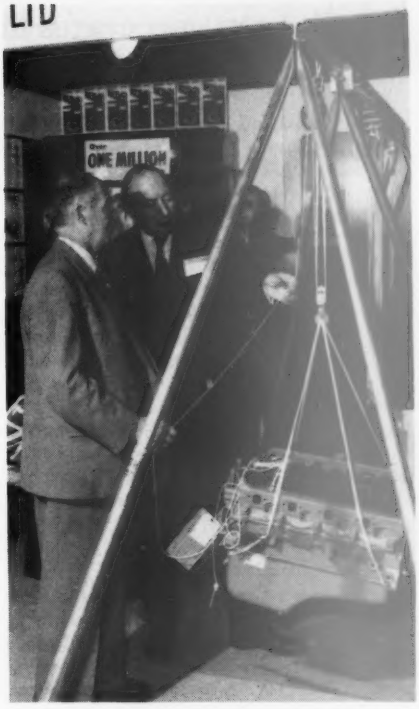
Poor car sales, inflation and unemployment have contributed to a tremendous upsurge in the motor car aftermarket sales, where more owners are doing their own service. A well-known market research firm estimated that the do-it-yourself market sales will increase from $75 billion in 1974 to $121 billion by 1980. It was also estimated that two out of every three male car owners in the United States do some work on their cars.

The British participants were ready to roll on the opening day to obtain their share of the market. They settled down to three gruelling days of hard selling and succeeded in securing nearly $1 million-worth of business and received 1,200 inquiries by the time the show had closed, with expectations of more to come. Without exception, they were most successful and each achieved his set objective. Interestingly enough, some British exhibitors also wrote business with companies in South Africa, Holland, West Germany and Canada.

The British exhibits attracted a constant stream of visitors to their displays which ranged from small dashboard switches to road wheels. There is no doubt about the importance which British companies attach to this market. Some were here for the first time to take advantage of the expanding market, while others are already well entrenched with excellent distribution arrangements.

Among British companies exhibiting were Alexander Engineering Ltd., showing sports car accessories; Aluminium Bronze Co., road wheels; Astrali Accessories Ltd., steering wheels; Aviamotive Services Ltd., tachometers and sports car accessories; Cosmic GT International Ltd., portable powered shower and car-wash kit and a range of light alloy wheels; Freeline Ltd., a wide range of accessories; Haltrac Ltd., pulley hoists; London Bankside Products Ltd., miscellaneous electrical accessories; Motec Ltd., steering wheels; 100+ International Accessories, road wheels; Sabre Motor Accessories Ltd., switches and accessories; Serck Services, packaged replacement parts and oil coolers; Simons Concessionaires Ltd., key fobs and cases; Smiths Industries Ltd., instruments and accessories; Speedograph Ltd., recording instruments; and Mirrocator Ltd., rear-view mirrors incorporating directional signal lights.

Without exception all of the British exhibitors were well pleased with the reception they received in the United States and will almost certainly return to the next event which is to be held next year in Las Vegas, Nevada.




Engine-lifting gear at the Automotive Parts and Accessories Show, Chicago.

## English-language interest helps books at Belgrade

**From J. M. Candlish, Commercial Department, British Embassy, Belgrade:** British books figured prominently in the 20th Belgrade International Book Fair held in the Belgrade Fairground from 27 October to 2 November. The Fair was opened by Edvard Kardelj, member of the Yugoslav Presidency, and was subsequently visited also by Vladimir Bakaric, the current vice-president of the Presidency, both of whom took a keen interest in the British section. This occupied its usual prime position near the main entrance and comprised a British Council display of the work of British publishers and independent displays by Collins, Fontana, Pan, Gordon and Breach, Longman, Penguin, Pergamon, Thomas Nelson and Colletts, all of whom were participating in a joint-venture sponsored by the Book Development Council in conjunction with the Department of Trade.

Some 66 foreign displays representing 2,500 publishers from 35 countries took part in the fair, and conspicuous among these were national exhibits from a large number of countries, mainly European but also from as far afield as Tunisia, the USA, Argentina and the People's Democratic Republic of Korea. The organisers now feel that Belgrade is well on the way to establishing itself as the second largest book fair in Europe (after Frankfurt), and already four more countries have expressed their intention of staging national exhibits for the first time at next year's fair, by which time a new hall, now under construction, will be ready for use.

In general, though there had initially been concern over the likely effect on the fair of Yugoslavia's current import restrictions, the British exhibitors were well satisfied with the results they achieved. Old hands such as Colletts, who have been exhibiting for many years, made good use of the contacts they have built up, while newcomers to Belgrade, for example Thomas Nelson and Gordon and Breach, felt that the prospects for the future fully justified their appearance at the fair. Meanwhile the continuing rapid growth of the study of the English language in Yugoslavia encourages confident hopes of a corresponding growth in demand for English-language books and hence opportunities for British publishers.

## Mechanical handling in Paris

A group of 12 British companies, supported by the BOTB in association with the Mechanical Handling Engineers Association, took part in the 16th International Mechanical Handling Exhibition (MANUTENTION) in Paris between 2-10 December.

Among recent British developments in mechanical handling equipment shown, some for the first time in France, were fork-lift trucks, castors, wheels, conveyor belting, flexible conveyors, precision chains, automatic control systems for electrical apparatus, industrial and food conveyors and industrial polymers.

## Have you a good export picture?

**Each week *Trade and Industry* publishes pictures illustrating Britain's export business. Companies with export successes are invited to send in the story with a photograph showing the goods in manufacture, ready for despatch, or, preferably, on arrival overseas. The story must, of course, reach us while it is still news. Send your export photographs to the Editor, *Trade and Industry*, Room 439, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET.**

## Reg Freeson encourages building exports

The increasing number of British manufacturers displaying their products abroad typified the growing interest among building contractors and manufacturers throughout western Europe for seeking markets outside their national boundaries, Reg Freeson, Minister for Housing and Construction, said in Paris on 24 November.

Speaking at the 'British Day' at the 10th International Building Exhibition – BATIMAT – in Paris, Mr. Freeson said, 'Europe is already one of our most important markets and companies engaged in producing and selling materials and components are making a big contribution to this. In the past building has been looked upon as something indigenous but, with increasing industrialisation, it is becoming far more international.

'The comparative isolation of the past has, however, left its mark. Each industrialised country has developed its own way of doing things, its own standards and codes of practice, and – even more important – its own laws and regulations to control and govern the whole building process. Consequently, the task of firms who wish to operate beyond their own national boundaries is made more difficult.

'The major objective of the EEC must be to eliminate such obstacles to trade. The Commission has already embarked upon a programme of work which will ultimately lead to considerable harmonisation between member states. The task is a big one and we cannot therefore expect immediate results.

**Big rise in exports**

'The difficulties that the UK construction industry has been experiencing at home have not extended to its overseas activities. Indeed, I am glad to say that British construction firms obtained new contracts in Europe worth £161 million at current prices compared with £62 million in 1973/74. In the EEC countries the value of new contracts obtained amounted to £38 million which is especially encouraging after last year's disappointing £8 million. The export of building materials has also been increasing. World-wide these were worth £294 million in 1974 and during only the first six months of 1975 had already reached a total of £188 million, approximately a third of which went to Europe.'

## Patent Office publications for industry

The Patent Office offers industry a wide range of publications. These include the Official Journal (Patents), the Trade Marks Journal, British Patent Specifications, Illustrated Abridgements of Patent Specifications, Reports of Patent, Design and Trade Mark Cases, and 50-year subject matter file lists of British Patent Specifications. Details of these and other publications may be obtained by post from Sale Branch, the Patent Office, Orpington, Kent, BR5 3RD or by personal application at the Public Sale Counter of the Patent Office, 25 Southampton Buildings, London, WC2.

## Bolivia – Santa Cruz Fair 1976

The biennial trade and agricultural exhibition will take place in Santa Cruz in September 1976. The British Government will have an information stand and interested firms may wish to consider taking space near this display. Full details about the fair and its regulations are available from: Comite de Exposiciones Ferias, Santa Cruz, Bolivia. Any correspondence to British Embassy, Casilla 694, La Paz, should be sent by air mail.

## Cutting and hand tools exhibited in Japan

**From Dennis Parsons, Second Secretary (Commercial), British Embassy, Tokyo:** Despite the current low level of economic activity in Japan, 14 British companies visited Tokyo to display their engineers' small tools and hand tools at the British Export Marketing Centre from 10-15 November. The members of the group, under the auspices of the Federation of British Hand Tool Manufacturers, had come to Japan to attack two quite different markets.

The industrial end-users for cutting tools and for hand tools – particularly general engineering companies and construction companies – have been particularly badly affected by the current economic depression so that Japanese production of these items is running at some 40 per cent less than 12 months ago. Despite this difficulty, and the difficulty of establishing an effective distribution system to reach the very large numbers of end-users, the participants in the exhibition were convinced that this was the right time to be active in Japan. Dormer Drills have a good reputation and are well known in Japan. As a result of a strengthening of their distribution organisation here, prospects are good for securing a sizeable increase in business. Clarkson International Tools Ltd. have had their own office in Japan for some years and are another company whose name is well known. Inquiries received at the exhibition will enable this company to increase its already sizeable penetration into the Japanese market. Representatives of Osborn-Mushet Tools Ltd. also found the exhibition useful in promoting their name in Japan.

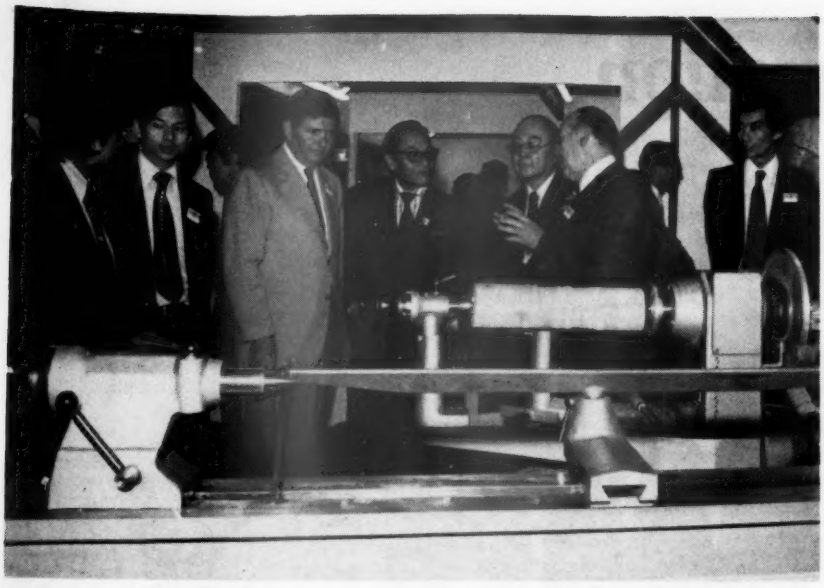
Firth Brown Tools Ltd., G. and J. Hall Ltd., James Neill (Sheffield) Ltd., and Edgar Allan Balfour all found a large amount of interest shown in their engineers' cutting tools despite the present difficult situation. Maun Industries Ltd., who are fairly new to the Japanese market, found the exhibition an ideal forum to enable them to consolidate the position they had reached and inquiries received at the exhibition should enable them to achieve a sizeable amount of business in the near future.

The stand of Hilmore Ltd. attracted a lot of attention from people interested in their tube-bending machines, while Burgess Power Tools Ltd. took orders worth £10,000 for their electric airless spray guns and electric engravers.

The second market of interest to the exhibitors was the market for do-it-yourself products. The Japanese market is less developed than that of the UK, but it is an area which most people expect to grow very rapidly in the future. Many of the companies already mentioned were exhibiting engineers' tools which would also find an outlet with the quality conscious Japanese do-it-yourself enthusiast. In addition however, Stanley Tools, who are very well known in Japan, took the opportunity of the exhibition to announce the signing of an order for £50,000 for their Surform range of hand tools.

The exhibition enabled the British company to extend its coverage of the Japanese market and is confident that increased sales will result. Abrasive Tools Ltd. found a lot of interest in their novel range of files and saws and appointed a representative during the exhibition. Interest was also shown in the work benches and tool sets displayed by A. B. Salmens Successors Ltd. and in the compact do-it-yourself tools and accessories of Florin.

Summing up for the group, Mr. W. R. Eccles, director, Federation of British Hand Tools Manufacturers said that the exhibition had been of great use in enabling the exhibitors to establish good contacts in the industrial end-user market. He also noted that the Japanese do-it-yourself market was in an exciting period of growth and there was no reason why British companies should not do well here.



Mr. F. Toft of Denford Machine Tools explaining his company's products to Mr. I. A. C. Kinnear, senior British Trade Commissioner, Dr. S. Y. Chung, chairman, Hong Kong Productivity Council, and Mr. T. K. Ann, chairman of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council.

## Hotel food and furniture at Basle

A total of 25 British manufacturers of products for the hotel and catering industry exhibited on the British joint venture stand at Igeho '75 which took place in Basle from 13-19 November. The joint venture was in fact divided into three sections: with five exhibitors of food products, 10 of catering equipment and 10 of furniture.

Comments, as can be imagined, were thus varied and divergent, ranging from individuals feeling that their choice of this particular trade fair might have been wrong, to other's pleasure at sales of food products to fill an 18½-ton container, and sales of £11,250 worth of furniture.

In between there were good reports of sales of equipment from the stands and progress towards agency agreements. In all there was enough cautious optimism to indicate that most firms hoped to be back for the 1977 fair. Many of the old hands felt that this year's had fewer visitors than the one in 1973, but more solid, valuable inquiries which could well be productive when they are followed up.

The newcomers commented that they had benefited from making contacts and evaluating the market. Those from the furniture firms in particular were convinced there was nothing wrong with British quality – or prices.

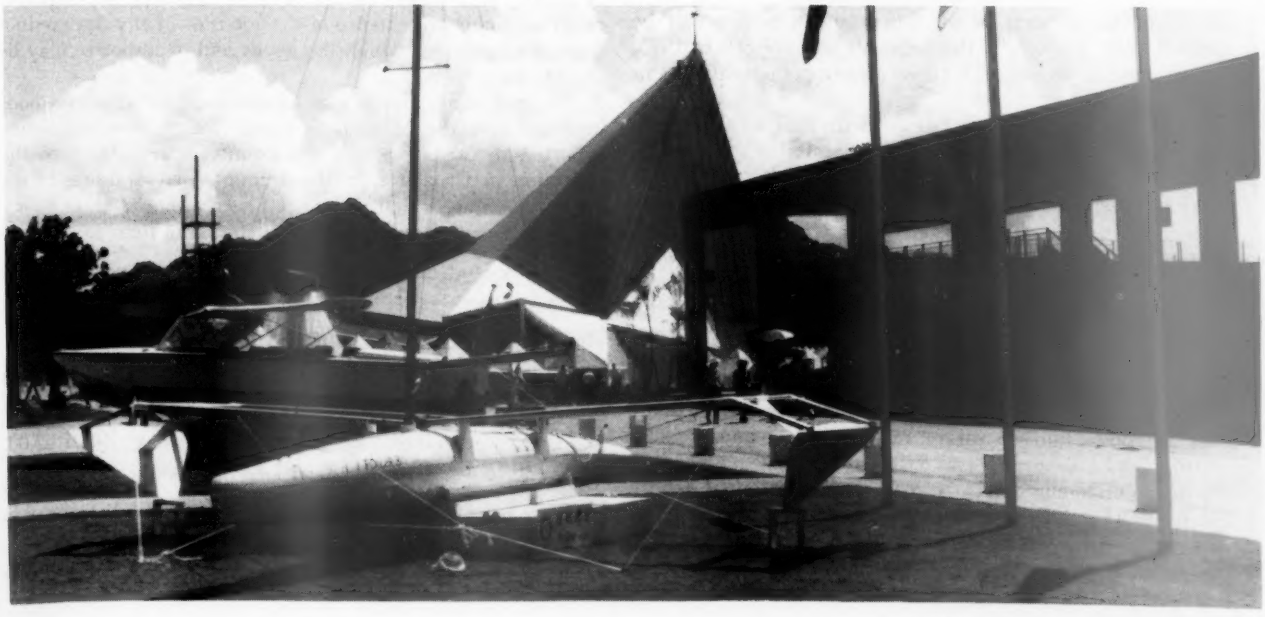
## Engineering and technology in Hong Kong

**From P. C. Barnes, British Trade Commission in Hong Kong:** Some 40,000 people visited the British Engineering and Technology Exhibition held in the new Hong Kong Convention Centre from 8-16 November. The exhibition covered a floor area of some 15,000 sq. ft and 27 exhibitors (18 of which were Hong Kong-based) representing a total of 140 British firms displayed and demonstrated products carefully selected to meet the needs of Hong Kong's expanding industry. On show were a wide range of machine tools, low-cost automation and scientific equipment, water treatment plants, reprographic machines, pneumatic-control equipment, gauges, tools and technical books.

This was the second British industrial exhibition in Hong Kong, the first having been held in 1972, since when Britain's share of the Hong Kong market for metal-working machinery has doubled. Sales from the stands were worth more than £250,000 and the exhibitors received some 1,800 serious inquiries which they hope will bring in a further £1 million in orders. The participants were all encouraged by the interest shown in the equipment on display and – perhaps the best indication of the success of the event – they all expressed a wish to see and to take part in a follow-up exhibition.

The exhibition was made possible and its organisation greatly facilitated by the completion in September of the new Hong Kong Convention Centre, which provides the colony's first permanent exhibition hall with a floor area of some 15,000 sq. ft, as well as separate large-scale convention facilities. Earlier exhibitions had to be housed in a specially constructed pavilion, which added greatly to their cost.

The hydrofoil outrigger yacht *Foiler 3* is part of Britain's exhibit at Ocean Expo '75 which has been taking place on the Japanese island of Okinawa since July. The exhibition will run for six months and has as its theme 'The sea we would like to see'.



# Trade Information

Eric Deakins, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Trade (centre), with senior members of a mission from Brazil organised by the Industrial Development Institute of the State of Minas Gerais. The mission, comprising state representatives, bankers and industrialists from the States of Minas Gerais, Goias and Espirito Santo, was aimed at stimulating interest for UK participation in agricultural and industrial ventures in the three states. From the left: Dr. Abilio dos Santos, president of the Minas Gerais Development Bank; Dr. Luiz Anibal de Lima Fernandes, president of INDI; Dr. Paulo C. de Oliveira Penna, State Secretary for Planning for Minas Gerais; Mr. Deakins; Sr. Roberto Campos, Brazil's Ambassador to UK; Dr. Fagundes Netto, State Secretary for Trade and Industry for Minas Gerais; Dr. Eliezer Batista, head of Federal Mining Co., Companhia Vale do Rion Doce, in Europe.

## Brazil: severe measures to reduce trade deficit

New economic measures were announced in Brazil on 3 December in view of the country's continuing balance of payments problems and the unexpectedly large trade deficit for October. The Brazilian Government has adopted further drastic measures aiming at reducing the trade deficit. They include:

The import deposit is extended from 180 to 360 days and will apply to an even wider range of goods.

In 1976 the imports of all Government bodies will be limited to 75 per cent of the value of their imports in 1975.

Petrol consumption by all Government bodies will be cut by 20 per cent.

All imports by Government Departments must be authorised by the responsible Minister. This responsibility may not be delegated.

Various special import duty exemptions have been cancelled.

CACEX is formally authorised to refuse import licences when it considers, in consultation with the Ministry of Finance, that this is in the national interest.

To assist tighter control of imports a register of importers will be established. Import licences will only be given to importers who are duly registered.

Additional fiscal and financial help will be given to Brazilian capital goods manufacturers to encourage import substitution.

Further refinements are to be made to the system of export incentives. In particular companies in states which have hitherto been unwilling to forgo ICM (state value added tax) as an export incentive will be eligible for compensating benefits in Federal taxation.

The following further information details the substance of Central Bank Resolution 354:

1 The issue of an import licence by CACEX is subject to the deposit of an amount corresponding to the fob value of the respective licence. This will be returned after 360 days, in accordance with the conditions laid down by the Central Bank.

2 The deposit referred to in this resolution applies to imports in general with no distinction as to the status of the importer or the origin or provenance of the goods or of any duty reductions or exemptions which the goods and/or importer may be eligible for.

3 The provisions of items 1 and 2 above do not apply to goods imported into the Manaus free zone which, however, when exported to other parts of the country, are subject to the collection in Cruzeiros, of the amount corresponding to the goods fob value, which will be returned after 360 days.

4 The following imports are not included in item 1:

a Goods included in the following chapters, positions and sub-positions of the Brazilian customs tariff:

those contained in chapter 31;

those contained in the positions 29.44, 30.01, 30.02, 30.03 and 38.11;

those contained in the sub-positions 10.01.02.00, 27.01.01.00, 30.05.01.00 and 30.05.02.00.

b Crude petroleum and derivatives imported by Petrobras, in accordance with decree 53.337 of 23 December 1965

c Equipment, parts or spare parts with no national similar, destined for:

research and production of crude petroleum;

scientific and technological research approved by the National Research Council

d Breeding animals for reproduction
e Seeds and fruits for sowing
f Products linked to drawback operations permitted by CACEX
g Machines, equipment and instruments with no national similar, provided that they are for the importer's own use and will be added to the importer's assets and have external financing of a period not less than the minimum laid down by the Central Bank
h Goods without exchange cover, in cases allowed by CACEX, or in the form of foreign investment duly registered with the Central Bank
i Goods imported from member countries of LAFTA (subject to stipulations set out in sub-clauses)
j Newsprint and paper imported by printers and publishers for their own use with a zero tariff
k Parts and components for the manufacture, refurbishing or repair of aircraft and helicopters imported by the armed forces, commercial airlines including air taxis and companies manufacturing or repairing aircraft and engines when approved by the Air Ministry
l Goods temporarily imported for assembly or maintenance and subsequently exported
m Brazilian goods returning in the circumstances set out in Article 13 of decree 64.833 of 17 July 1969
n Goods entering the Manaus free zone and used or incorporated in goods manufactured or processed there subject to paragraph 1 of Article 7 of decree 61244 of 28 August 1967
o Goods included in BEFIEX programmes.

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 476/474.

## Uganda: UK exports not paid for and not covered by ECGD

Talks between officials of the British and Ugandan Governments, which started at Kampala in September, are likely to be resumed shortly. One of the subjects for discussion concerns the outstanding payment for goods exported from the United Kingdom by firms in Uganda which have either changed hands or gone out of business.

In order that definitive lists of such claims *not* covered by the Export Credits Guarantee Department may be compiled and passed to the Ugandan authorities, for their consideration when official talks are resumed, details of claims not already notified to the Department of Trade should be sent to the Department by 31 December 1975.

Claims should be in sufficient detail to enable the Ugandan authorities to identify particular consignments and to satisfy themselves that payment for the goods has not been made, or, if made, not remitted. Details ought, therefore, to include the name and address of the Ugandan importer; an adequate description of the goods; order or indent number and date; UK invoice number and date; export vessel's name and bill of lading number; net invoiced value.

Claims should be sent to CRE 2 Division, Department of Trade, Room 337, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET.

Exporters who have already notified the Department of Trade about claims for commercial debts not covered by ECGD need not submit them again, provided they are satisfied that the information already given is adequate.

## Reimposition of import duty on non-EEC goods

The Department of Trade is proposing to reimpose the United Kingdom 'full' rate of duty with effect from 1 January 1976 on the following material; the intra-Community rate will remain suspended up to and including 1 March 1976:

| Tariff no. | Description of goods |
|---|---|
| 73.08 | Hot rolled steel coils for re-rolling not less than 630mm nor more than 1,090mm in width and not less than 1.9mm nor more than 2.8mm in thickness |

Interested parties who wish to make representations should write to Department of Trade, General Division, 66/74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SJ. These should be received by 19 December 1975 at the latest.

# Government reviewing cost escalation scheme

The Government is now reviewing the application of the cost escalation scheme it introduced in February, Peter Shore, Secretary of State for Trade, said on 4 December at the lunch of the Metallurgical Plantmakers' Federation.

'It can be argued,' he said, 'that inflation is only of limited relevance to export performance – that sterling depreciation serves to maintain our price competitiveness.

'But there is now evidence enough,' he continued, 'that British exporters are being prevented from getting – even deterred from *going* for – export business by the difficulty of *assessing* the risks they are taking – the difficulty of estimating forward costs so as to price a potential contract on a realistic and profitable basis. This is a particular problem for the exporters of capital goods, because of the difficulty of estimating these forward costs over a lengthy production period. And because they operate in a world in which overseas buyers expect fixed prices to be quoted, even for very large contracts, or are willing to make only small allowance for the escalation of costs.

'There are, in effect, no techniques which can fully safeguard us from this sort of inflation-created problem.

'I am, of course, well aware of your and other industries' criticisms of the cost escalation scheme. Indeed, I had a further opportunity to discuss the scheme earlier this week during my meeting with the Process Plant Working Party.

'I think you will agree that when a new and complex scheme of this kind is introduced, there is inevitably a learning period. I have been watching very closely how the scheme has been working and I am fully aware of the problems.

'There must, of course, be some constraints – not only in the context of public expenditure but also internationally. Moreover, there are clearly limits beyond which it is not economically sensible to go on supporting exports in this way. Nevertheless, I hope that you will find some encouragement in the fact that we are now reviewing the application of the scheme, in the light of experience and of the various representations which have been made.

'We are, at any rate, agreed that such schemes are not a viable substitute for dealing with the fundamental problem.'

# Tariff quotas 1976: paper and board and certain printed products originating in EFTA countries (and Finland)

Under the Agreements between the European Economic Communities and the countries concerned, the United Kingdom may open for each year from 1974 to 1983 (inclusive) zero-duty tariff quotas for imports of certain paper and printed products that fall within chapters 48 and 49 of the Common Customs Tariff, and originate in Austria, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, and Switzerland. This notice sets out the proposals of the Departments of Trade and Industry in the light of discussions with those concerned about the size of these tariff quotas for 1976 (which include in a few cases small allocations for the Channel Islands). These proposals can be carried out for the UK, only by making an Order which is being laid before the House of Commons. Details of the quotas will later be published in Part II of the Customs Tariff.

The main tariff headings of the proposed quotas, their description and the amounts for 1976 are set out in the schedules below. For the convenience of importers the expected relevant T/T numbers for 1976 are shown against the quota description. Goods eligible for the tariff quotas will under the Agreement be confined to those of the kind that qualify for ex-EFTA treatment (for details see Customs Notice 810 of March 1973 on 'Free Trade Agreements between EEC and EFTA countries').

Qualifying goods, as in 1975, will be set against the quotas in the order in which any importer enters them with Customs for home use and claims relief from duty (the 'greyhound system'). (Advice on administration of quotas and how to claim such tariff quota relief is given in Customs Notice 771 of March 1973 and amendments entitled 'Imported Goods: Tariff Quotas'. Inquiries should be directed to any office of HM Customs and Excise.)

Inquiries about the normal rate of duty for imports outside the quotas should be addressed in writing to General Division, Branch 2, Department of Trade, Room 341, Kingsgate House, 66/74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SJ.

Inquiries about how the quotas may be administered should be addressed in writing to General Division, Branch 2, Room 333, Kingsgate House, 66/74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SJ.

Inquiries about the scope and levels of individual quotas should be addressed in writing to PTM Branch, Department of Industry, Room 1918, Millbank Tower, London SW1P 4QU.

## Sweden

| Common customs tariff heading | Description | Quota serial no. | 1976 quota levels (metric tonnes) | Corresponding 1976 tariff/trade code no. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Chapter 48 | Paper and paperboard: Articles of paper pulp of paper or of paperboard | | | |
| 48.01 | Paper and paperboard (including cellulose wadding) machine made in rolls or sheets: | | | |
| | C. Kraft paper and kraft board: | | | |
| | II. Other: | | | |
| | Kraft liner | 1898 | 123,260 tonnes (of which not more than 105,620 tonnes weighing 220g/m² or less) | 4801.0716<br>4801.0851<br>4801.1394<br>4801.1896 |
| | | 1871 | (of which not more than 17,640 tonnes weighing more than 220g/m²) | 4801.0495<br>4801.0577 |
| | Sack kraft | 1936 | 125,000 tonnes | 4801.0919<br>4801.0997<br>4801.1978 |
| | Other | 2001 | 77,250 tonnes (of which not more than 12,250 tonnes bleached and semi-bleached) | 4801.0641<br>4801.1070<br>4801.1234<br>4801.1451<br>4801.1572<br>4801.1711<br>4801.2037 |
| | | 2028 | (of which not more than 65,000 tonnes unbleached) | 4801.0513<br>4801.0673<br>4801.1145<br>4801.1316<br>4801.1526<br>4801.1647<br>4801.1800<br>4801.2101 |
| | ex E other Bible paper (India paper) copying tissue, other printing paper and other writing paper, not containing mechanical woodpulp or in which mechanical woodpulp does not represent more than 5 per cent | 2095 | 14,000 tonnes | 4801.5599<br>4801.5720<br>4801.5994<br>4801.6516<br>4801.4935* |
| | Printing paper and writing paper containing mechanical woodpulp excluding copying tissue | 2141 | 55,000 tonnes | 4801.5204<br>4801.5542<br>4801.5866<br>4801.6348† |
| | Fluting paper for corrugated paper board | 2184 | 41,000 tonnes | 4801.6256 |
| | Sulphite paper for wrapping purposes | 2214 | 19,000 tonnes | 4801.4159<br>4801.4287 |
| | Other, excluding cellulose wadding and tissues | 2435 | 26,500 tonnes (of which not more than 6,500 tonnes test liner (including jute liner) | 4801.6594‡ |
| | Other paper | 2451 | (of which not more than 2,000 tonnes base paper for sensitising with solutions other than silver salts) | 4801.6982 |
| | | 2478 | (of which not more than 9,000 tonnes wallpaper base) | 4801.7397 |
| | | 2486 | (of which not more than 9,000 tonnes other papers) | 4801.4419‡<br>4801.4554<br>4801.4675<br>4801.4935‡<br>4801.6110<br>4801.6726<br>4801.6861<br>4801.7269<br>4801.7529‡<br>4801.7785 |

* Copying tissues only.

† Newsprint paper for any reason ineligible for the EEC Quota bearing code numbers 4801.5282 and 5421 is also admissible to this quota and also to quotas 2125 (Finland, 2133 (Norway) and 2117 (Austria).

‡ Other than copying tissue.

| Common customs tariff heading | Description | Quota serial no. | 1976 quota levels (metric tonnes) | Corresponding 1976 tariff/trade code no. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Other paperboard | 2311 | 35,700 tonnes (of which not more than 8,400 tonnes test liner-board including jute liner-board) | 4801.3616 |
| | | 2338 | (of which not more than 17,500 tonnes folding box-board) | 4801.2820<br>4801.2966<br>4801.3096<br>4801.3210 |
| | | 2346 | (of which not more than 300 tonnes electrical insulating press-board) | 4801.2699 |
| | | 2354 | (of which not more than 9,500 tonnes other paper-board) | 4801.2560<br>4801.3356<br>4801.3751<br>4801.3872 |
| 48.03 | Parchment or greaseproof paper and paperboard and glazed transparent paper in rolls or sheets | 2532 | 8,500 tonnes | 4803.0003<br>4803.0067<br>4803.0195<br>4803.0334<br>4803.0455 |
| 48.04 | Composite paper or paperboard (made by sticking flat layers together with an adhesive) not surface coated or impregnated whether or not internally reinforced in rolls or sheets | 2567 | 593 tonnes | 4804.0008<br>4804.0093<br>4804.0225 |
| 48.05 | Paper and paperboard corrugated (with or without flat surface sheets) creped, crinkled, embossed or perforated, in rolls or sheets: | | | |
| | B. Other | | 12,500 tonnes | |
| | | 2974 | (of which not more than 2,500 tonnes paper manufactured wholly of bleached or unbleached sulphate cellulose fibre excluding corrugated) | 4805.0988 |
| | | 2583 | (of which not more than 10,000 tonnes other excluding corrugated) | 4805.1111<br>4805.1257<br>4805.1378<br>4805.1517<br>4805.1570<br>4805.1702<br>4805.1830<br>4805.1976<br>4805.2117<br>4805.2238 |
| 48.07 | Paper and paperboard impregnated, coated surface – coloured, surface-decorated or printed (not being merely ruled, lined or squared and not constituting printed matter within Chapter 49) in rolls or sheets: | 2621 | 10,000 tonnes (of which not more than 6,580 tonnes mechanical) | 4807.1174<br>4807.1306<br>4807.1441 |
| | B. Other: Coated printing paper | 2648 | (of which not more than 3,420 tonnes other than mechanical) | 4807.1582<br>4807.1701 |
| | Other | 2729 | 37,063 tonnes (of which not more than 6,615 tonnes folding boxboard) | 4807.3225<br>4807.3353<br>4807.3481 |
| | | 2737 | (of which not more than 30,448 tonnes other than folding boxboard) | 4807.0510<br>4807.0656<br>4807.0784<br>4807.0916<br>4807.1046<br>4807.1847<br>4807.1968<br>4807.2109<br>4807.2244<br>4807.2365<br>4807.2504<br>4807.2760<br>4807.2899<br>4807.2963<br>4807.3093<br>4807.3613 |
| 48.15 | Other paper and paperboard cut to size or shape: | | | |
| | B. Other | 2834 | 2,837 tonnes | 4815.2295<br>4815.2352<br>4815.2434<br>4815.2555<br>4815.2690<br>4815.2822<br>4815.2950<br>4815.3098<br>4815.3237<br>4815.3358<br>4815.3493<br>4815.3625<br>4815.3753<br>4815.3881<br>4815.4015<br>4815.4143 |
| 48.16 | Boxes, bags and other packing containers of paper or paperboard | 2842 | 501 tonnes | 4816.0018<br>4816.0107<br>4816.0210<br>4816.0356 |
| ex 48.21 | Other articles of paper pulp, paper, paperboard, or cellulose wadding excluding 4821A | 2885 | 1,115 tonnes | 4821.0097<br>4821.0535<br>4821.0713<br>4821.0859<br>4821.0987<br>4821.1103<br>4821.1377 |
| ex Chapter 48 | Other products of Chapter 48, excluding products of subheading No. 4801A and heading 48.09 | 2982 | 3,500 tonnes | 4801.0196<br>4801.0310<br>4801.2304<br>4801.2432<br>4801.5065<br>4801.7123<br>4802.0009<br>4802.0176<br>4802.0308<br>4805.0066<br>4805.0194<br>4805.0326<br>4805.0461<br>4805.0582<br>4805.0721<br>4805.0842<br>4806.0007<br>4806.0142<br>4806.0288<br>4807.0122<br>4807.0250<br>4807.0396<br>4808.0006<br>4810.0003<br>4811.0008<br>4812.0034<br>4813.0007<br>4813.0110<br>4813.0256<br>4814.0001<br>4814.0161<br>4814.0282<br>4815.1503<br>4815.1649<br>4815.1777<br>4815.1909<br>4815.2039<br>4815.2167<br>4817.0005<br>4818.0031<br>4818.0095<br>4818.0298<br>4818.0437<br>4818.0704<br>4819.0004<br>4820.0007<br>4821.0058 |

## Finland

| Common customs tariff heading | Description | Quota serial no. | 1976 quota levels (metric tonnes) | Corresponding 1976 tariff/trade code no. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Chapter 48 | Paper and paper-board: articles of paper pulp | | | |
| 48.01 | Paper and paper-board: (including cellulose wadding), machine made in rolls or sheets: | | | |
| | C. Kraft paper and Kraft board: | | | |
| | II. Other | | | |
| | Kraft liner | 1847 | 55,650 tonnes | 4801.0495<br>4801.0577<br>4801.0716<br>4801.0851<br>4801.1394<br>4801.1896 |
| | Sack Kraft | 1901 | 25,100 tonnes | 4801.0919<br>4801.0997<br>4801.1978 |
| | Other | 1952 | 28,750 tonnes (of which not more than 1,750 tonnes bleached and semi-bleached) | 4801.0641<br>4801.1070<br>4801.1234<br>4801.1451<br>4801.1572<br>4801.1711<br>4801.2037 |
| | | 1979 | (of which not more than 27,000 tonnes unbleached) | 4801.0513<br>4801.0673<br>4801.1145<br>4801.1316<br>4801.1526<br>4801.1647<br>4801.1800<br>4801.2101 |
| | ex E other: Bible paper (India paper), copying tissue, other printing paper and other writing paper not containing mechanical woodpulp or in which mechanical woodpulp does not represent more than 5% | 2079 | 15,250 tonnes | 4801.5599<br>4801.5720<br>4801.5994<br>4801.6516<br>4801.4935* |
| | Printing paper and writing paper containing mechanical woodpulp excluding copying tissue | 2125 | 190,000 tonnes | 4801.5204<br>4801.5542<br>4801.5866<br>4801.6384 |
| | Fluting paper for corrugated paperboard | 2168 | 44,000 tonnes | 4801.6256 |
| | Sulphite paper for wrapping purposes | 2192 | 6,000 tonnes | 4801.4159<br>4801.4287 |
| | Other, excluding cellulose wadding and tissues: | | | |
| | Other paper | 2389 | 31,500 tonnes (of which not more than 25,000 tonnes wallpaper base) | 4801.7397 |
| | | 2397 | (of which not more than 6,500 tonnes other than wallpaper base) | 4801.4419<br>4801.4554<br>4801.4675<br>4801.4935*<br>4801.6110<br>4801.6594<br>4801.6726<br>4801.6861<br>4801.6982<br>4801.7269<br>4801.7529<br>4801.7785 |
| | Other paperboard | 2249 | 41,700 tonnes (of which not more than 24,000 tonnes folding boxboard made from 100% woodpulp) | 4801.2820<br>4801.2966 |
| | | 2257 | (of which not more than 3,700 tonnes folding boxboard made from furnishes composed wholly or partly of waste paper) | 4801.3096<br>4801.3210 |
| | | 2265 | (of which not more than 14,000 tonnes other paperboard) | 4801.2560<br>4801.2699<br>4801.3356<br>4801.3616<br>4801.3751<br>4801.3872 |
| 48.03 | Parchment or greaseproof paper and paperboard and imitations thereof, and glazed transparent paper in rolls or sheets: | 2516 | 4,500 tonnes | 4803.0003<br>4803.0067<br>4803.0195<br>4803.0334<br>4803.0455 |
| 48.05 | Paper and paperboard, corrugated (with or without flat surface sheets), creped, crinkled, embossed or perforated, in rolls or sheets: | | | |
| | B. Other | 2575 | 22,500 tonnes | 4805.0988<br>4805.1111<br>4805.1257<br>4805.1378<br>4805.1517<br>4805.1570<br>4805.1702<br>4805.1830<br>4805.1976<br>4805.2117<br>4805.2238 |
| 48.07 | Paper and paperboard impregnated, coated, surface-coloured, surface decorated or printed (not merely ruled, lined or squared and not constituting printed matter within Chapter 49); in rolls or sheets: | | | |
| | B. Other: | | | |
| | Coated printing paper | 2613 | (of which not more than 2,540 tonnes other than mechanical) | 4807.1562<br>4807.1701 |
| | Other | 2672 | 50,350 tonnes (of which not more than 24,500 tonnes folding boxboard made from 100% woodpulp) | 4807.3225<br>4807.3353 |
| | | 2699 | (of which not more than 1,600 tonnes folding boxboard made from furnishes composed wholly or partly from waste paper) | 4807.3481 |
| | | 2702 | (of which not more than 24,250 tonnes other paper and paperboard) | 4807.0510<br>4807.0656<br>4807.0784<br>4807.0916<br>4807.1046<br>4807.1847<br>4807.1968<br>4807.2109<br>4807.2244<br>4807.2365<br>4807.2504<br>4807.2760<br>4807.2899<br>4807.2963<br>4807.3093<br>4807.3613 |
| 48.15 | Other paper and paperboard cut to size or shape: | | | |
| | B. Other | 2826 | 6,500 tonnes | 4815.2295<br>4815.2352<br>4815.2434<br>4815.2555<br>4815.2690<br>4815.2822<br>4815.2950<br>4815.3098<br>4815.3237 |

* Copying tissue only.

* Other than copying tissue.

| Common customs tariff heading | Description | Quota serial no. | 1976 quota levels (metric tonnes) | Corresponding 1976 tariff/trade code no. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | 4815.3358 |
| | | | | 4815.3493 |
| | | | | 4815.3625 |
| | | | | 4815.3753 |
| | | | | 4815.3881 |
| | | | | 4815.4015 |
| | | | | 4815.4143 |
| ex Chapter 48 | Other products of Chapter 48, excluding products of subheading No. 48.01A and heading 48.09 | 2915 | 5,000 tonnes | 4801.0196 |
| | | | | 4801.0310 |
| | | | | 4801.2304 |
| | | | | 4801.2432 |
| | | | | 4801.5065 |
| | | | | 4801.7123 |
| | | | | 4802.0009 |
| | | | | 4802.0176 |
| | | | | 4802.0308 |
| | | | | 4804.0008 |
| | | | | 4804.0093 |
| | | | | 4804.0225 |
| | | | | 4805.0066 |
| | | | | 4805.0194 |
| | | | | 4805.0326 |
| | | | | 4805.0461 |
| | | | | 4805.0582 |
| | | | | 4805.0721 |
| | | | | 4805.0842 |
| | | | | 4806.0007 |
| | | | | 4806.0142 |
| | | | | 4806.0288 |
| | | | | 4807.0122 |
| | | | | 4807.0250 |
| | | | | 4807.0396 |
| | | | | 4808.0006 |
| | | | | 4810.0003 |
| | | | | 4811.0008 |
| | | | | 4812.0034 |
| | | | | 4813.0007 |
| | | | | 4813.0110 |
| | | | | 4813.0256 |
| | | | | 4814.0001 |
| | | | | 4814.0161 |
| | | | | 4814.0282 |
| | | | | 4815.1503 |
| | | | | 4815.1649 |
| | | | | 4815.1777 |
| | | | | 4815.1909 |
| | | | | 4815.2039 |
| | | | | 4815.2167 |
| | | | | 4816.0018 |
| | | | | 4816.0107 |
| | | | | 4816.0210 |
| | | | | 4816.0356 |
| | | | | 4817.0005 |
| | | | | 4818.0031 |
| | | | | 4818.0095 |
| | | | | 4818.0298 |
| | | | | 4818.0437 |
| | | | | 4818.0704 |
| | | | | 4819.0004 |
| | | | | 4820.0007 |
| | | | | 4821.0058 |
| | | | | 4821.0097 |
| | | | | 4821.0535 |
| | | | | 4821.0713 |
| | | | | 4821.0859 |
| | | | | 4821.0987 |
| | | | | 4821.1103 |
| | | | | 4821.1377 |

## Norway

| Common customs tariff heading | Description | Quota serial no. | 1976 quota levels (metric tonnes) | Corresponding 1976 tariff/trade code no. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Chapter 48 | Paper and paperboard: articles of paper pulp, of paper or of paperboard | | | |
| 48.01 | Paper and paperboard (including cellulose wadding), machine made, in rolls or sheets: | | | |
| | C. Kraft paper and kraft board: | | | |
| | II. Other: | | | |
| | Kraft liner | 1863 | 8,400 tonnes | 4801.0495 |
| | | | | 4801.0577 |
| | | | | 4801.0716 |
| | | | | 4801.0851 |
| | | | | 4801.1394 |
| | | | | 4801.1896 |
| | Sack Kraft | 1928 | 16,000 tonnes | 4801.0919 |
| | | | | 4801.0997 |
| | | | | 4801.1978 |
| | Other | 1987 | 12,200 tonnes (of which not more | 4801.0641 |
| | | | | 4801.1070 |
| | | | than 3,200 tonnes bleached and semi-bleached) | 4801.1234 |
| | | | | 4801.1451 |
| | | | | 4801.1572 |
| | | | | 4801.1711 |
| | | | | 4801.2037 |
| | | 1995 | (of which not more than 9,000 tonnes unbleached) | 4801.0513 |
| | | | | 4801.0673 |
| | | | | 4801.1145 |
| | | | | 4801.1316 |
| | | | | 4801.1526 |
| | | | | 4801.1647 |
| | | | | 4801.1800 |
| | | | | 4801.2101 |
| | ex E other: Bible paper (India paper), copying tissue: other printing paper and other writing paper, not containing mechanical woodpulp or in which mechanical woodpulp does not represent more than 5% | 2087 | 14,750 tonnes | 4801.5599 |
| | | | | 4801.5720 |
| | | | | 4801.5994 |
| | | | | 4801.6516 |
| * Copying tissue only | | | | 4801.4935* |
| | Printing paper and writing paper containing mechanical woodpulp excluding copying tissue | 2133 | 29,975 tonnes | 4801.5204 |
| | | | | 4801.5282 |
| | | | | 4801.5421 |
| | | | | 4801.5542 |
| | | | | 4801.5866 |
| | | | | 4801.6384 |
| | Fluting paper for corrugated paperboard | 2176 | 17,500 tonnes | 4801.6256 |
| | Sulphite paper for wrapping purposes | 2206 | 13,200 tonnes | 4801.4159 |
| | | | | 4801.4287 |
| | Other, excluding cellulose wadding and tissues: Other paper | | | |
| | | 2419 | 12,500 tonnes (of which not more than 6,000 tonnes tissue paper (hard)) | 4801.4419 |
| | | | | 4801.4935* |
| * Other than copying tissue | | 2427 | (of which not more than 6,500 tonnes other papers) | 4801.4554 |
| | | | | 4801.4675 |
| | | | | 4801.6110 |
| | | | | 4801.6594 |
| | | | | 4801.6726 |
| | | | | 4801.6861 |
| | | | | 4801.6982 |
| | | | | 4801.7269 |
| | | | | 4801.7397 |
| | | | | 4801.7529 |
| | | | | 4801.7785 |
| | Other paperboard | | | |
| | | 2281 | 10,900 tonnes (of which not more than 2,600 tonnes folding boxboard made from furnishes composed wholly or partly of waste paper) | 4801.3096 |
| | | | | 4801.3210 |
| | | 2303 | (of which not more than 8,300 tonnes other paperboard not mentioned in the entry in this column immediately preceding this one) | 4801.2560 |
| | | | | 4801.2699 |
| | | | | 4801.2820 |
| | | | | 4801.2966 |
| | | | | 4801.3356 |
| | | | | 4801.3616 |
| | | | | 4801.3751 |
| | | | | 4801.3872 |
| 48.03 | Parchment or greaseproof paper and paperboard, and imitations thereof, and glazed transparent paper, in rolls or sheets | 2524 | 18,500 tonnes | 4803.0003 |
| | | | | 4803.0067 |
| | | | | 4803.0195 |
| | | | | 4803.0334 |
| | | | | 4803.0455 |
| 48.07 | Paper and paperboard, impregnated, coated, surface-coloured, surface-decorated or printed (not being merely ruled, lined or squared and not constituting printed matter within Chapter 49), in rolls or sheets | | | |
| | B. Other | | | |
| | | 2753 | 6,500 tonnes (of which not more than 3,700 tonnes folding boxboard made from 100% woodpulp) | 4807.3225 |
| | | | | 4807.3353 |

| Common customs tariff heading | Description | Quota serial no. | 1976 quota levels (metric tonnes) | Corresponding 1976 tariff/trade code no. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 2761 | (of which not more than 800 tonnes folding boxboard made from other body furnishes) | 4807.3481 |
| | | 2788 | (of which not more than 2,000 tonnes other paper and paperboard.) | 4807.0510<br>4807.0656<br>4807.0784<br>4807.0916<br>4807.1046<br>4807.1174<br>4807.1306<br>4807.1441<br>4807.1562<br>4807.1701<br>4807.1847<br>4807.1968<br>4807.2109<br>4807.2244<br>4807.2365<br>4807.2504<br>4807.2760<br>4807.2899<br>4807.2963<br>4807.3093<br>4807.3613 |
| ex Chapter 48 | Other products of Chapter 48, excluding products of subheading No. 48.01A and heading 48.09 | 2931 | 7,750 tonnes (of which not more than 2,100 tonnes creped tissue paper) | 4805 1257 |
| | | 2958 | (of which not more than 5,650 tonnes other than creped tissue paper) | 4801.0196<br>4801.0310<br>4801.2304<br>4801.2432<br>4801.5065<br>4801.7123<br>4802.0009<br>4802.0176<br>4802.0308<br>4804.0008<br>4804.0093<br>4804.0225<br>4805.0066<br>4805.0194<br>4805.0326<br>4805.0461<br>4805.0582<br>4805.0721<br>4805.0842<br>4805.0988<br>4805.1111<br>4805.1378<br>4805.1517<br>4805.1570<br>4805.1702<br>4805.1830<br>4805.1976<br>4805.2117<br>4805.2238<br>4806.0007<br>4806.0142<br>4806.0288<br>4807.0122<br>4807.0250<br>4807.0396<br>4808.0006<br>4810.0003<br>4811.0008<br>4812.0034<br>4813.0007<br>4813.0110<br>4813.0256<br>4814.0001<br>4814.0161<br>8144.0282<br>4815.1503<br>4815.1649<br>4815.1777<br>4815.1909<br>4815.2039<br>4815.2167<br>4815.2295<br>4815.2352<br>4815.2434<br>4815.2555<br>4815.2690<br>4815.2822<br>4815.2950<br>4815.3098<br>4815.3237<br>4815.3358<br>4815.3493<br>4815.3625<br>4815.3753 |

| Common customs tariff heading | Description | Quota serial no. | 1976 quota levels (metric tonnes) | Corresponding 1976 tariff/trade code no. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | 4815.3881<br>4815.4015<br>4815.4143<br>4816.0018<br>4816.0107<br>4816.0210<br>4816.0356<br>4817.0005<br>4818.0031<br>4818.0095<br>4818.0298<br>4818.0437<br>4818.0704<br>4819.0004<br>4820.0007<br>4821.0058<br>4821.0097<br>4821.0535<br>4821.0713<br>4821.0859<br>4821.0987<br>4821.1103<br>4821.1377 |

## Austria

| Common customs tariff heading | Description | Quota serial no. | 1976 quota levels (metric tonnes) | Corresponding 1976 tariff/trade code no. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Chapter 48 | Paper and paperboard articles of paper pulp, of paper or of paperboard | | | |
| 48.01 | Paper and paperboard (including cellulose wadding), machine made, in rolls or sheets: | | | |
| | C. Kraft paper and kraft board: | | | |
| | ex II. Other, excluding kraft liner and sack kraft | 1944 | 5,000 tonnes | 4801.0513<br>4801.0641<br>4801.0673<br>4801.1070<br>4801.1145<br>4801.1234<br>4801.1316<br>4801.1451<br>4801.1526<br>4801.1572<br>4801.1647<br>4801.1711<br>4801.1800<br>4801.2037<br>4801.2101 |
| | ex E Other: Bible paper (India paper), copying tissue: other printing paper and other writing paper: not containing mechanical woodpulp or in which mechanical woodpulp does not represent more than 5% | 2052 | 2,500 tonnes | 4801.5599<br>4801.5720<br>4801.5994<br>4801.6516<br>4801.4935* |
| | * Copying tissue only | | | |
| | Printing paper and writing paper, containing mechanical woodpulp, excluding copying tissue | 2117 | 830 tonnes | 4801.5204<br>4801.5282<br>4801.5421<br>4801.5542<br>4801.5866<br>4801.6384 |
| | Other, excluding cellulose wadding tissues, fluting paper for corrugated paperboard and sulphite paper for wrapping purposes. Other paperboard | 2222 | 830 tonnes | 4801.2560<br>4801.2699<br>4801.2820<br>4801.2966<br>4801.3096<br>4801.3210 |

| Common customs tariff heading | Description | Quota serial no. | 1976 quota levels (metric tonnes) | Corresponding 1976 tariff/trade code no. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | 4801.3356 |
| | | | | 4801.3616 |
| | | | | 4801.3751 |
| | | | | 4801.3872 |
| | Other paper | 2362 | 580 tonnes | 4801.4419 |
| | | | | 4801.4554 |
| | | | | 4801.4675 |
| | | | | 4801.4935† |
| † Other than copying tissue. | | | | 4801.6110 |
| | | | | 4801.6594 |
| | | | | 4801.6726 |
| | | | | 4801.6861 |
| | | | | 4801.6982 |
| | | | | 4801.7269 |
| | | | | 4801.7397 |
| | | | | 4801.7529 |
| | | | | 4801.7785 |
| 48.07 | Paper and paperboard, impregnated, coated, surface-coloured, surface-decorated or printed (not being merely ruled, lined or squared and not constituting printed matter within Chapter 49), in rolls or sheets: | | | |
| | B. Other | | | |
| | Coated printing or writing paper | 2591 | 18,000 tonnes | 4807.1174 |
| | | | | 4807.1306 |
| | | | | 4807.1441 |
| | | | | 4807.1562 |
| | | | | 4807.1701 |
| | Other | 2664 | 3,000 tonnes | 4807.0510 |
| | | | | 4807.0656 |
| | | | | 4807.0784 |
| | | | | 4807.0916 |
| | | | | 4807.1046 |
| | | | | 4807.1847 |
| | | | | 4807.1968 |
| | | | | 4807.2109 |
| | | | | 4807.2244 |
| | | | | 4807.2365 |
| | | | | 4807.2504 |
| | | | | 4807.2760 |
| | | | | 4807.2899 |
| | | | | 4807.2963 |
| | | | | 4807.3093 |
| | | | | 4807.3225 |
| | | | | 4807.3353 |
| | | | | 4807.3481 |
| | | | | 4807.3613 |
| 48.15 | Other paper and paperboard, cut to size or shape: | | | |
| | B. Other | 2796 | 3,550 tonnes | 4815.2295 |
| | | | | 4815.2352 |
| | | | | 4815.2434 |
| | | | | 4815.2555 |
| | | | | 4815.2690 |
| | | | | 4815.2822 |
| | | | | 4815.2950 |
| | | | | 4815.3098 |
| | | | | 4815.3237 |
| | | | | 4815.3358 |
| | | | | 4815.3493 |
| | | | | 4815.3625 |
| | | | | 4815.3753 |
| | | | | 4815.3881 |
| | | | | 4815.4015 |
| | | | | 4815.4143 |
| ex Chapter 48 | Other products of Chapter 48, excluding products of subheading No. 48.01A and heading 48.09 | 2907 | 3,350 tonnes | 4801.0196 |
| | | | | 4801.0310 |
| | | | | 4801.0495 |
| | | | | 4801.0577 |
| | | | | 4801.0716 |
| | | | | 4801.0851 |
| | | | | 4801.0919 |
| | | | | 4801.0997 |
| | | | | 4801.1394 |
| | | | | 4801.1896 |
| | | | | 4801.1978 |
| | | | | 4801.2304 |
| | | | | 4801.2432 |
| | | | | 4801.4159 |
| | | | | 4801.4287 |
| | | | | 4801.5065 |
| | | | | 4801.6256 |
| | | | | 4801.7123 |
| | | | | 4802.0009 |
| | | | | 4802.0176 |
| | | | | 4802.0308 |
| | | | | 4803.0003 |
| | | | | 4803.0067 |
| | | | | 4803.0195 |
| | | | | 4803.0334 |
| | | | | 4803.0455 |
| | | | | 4804.0008 |
| | | | | 4804.0093 |
| | | | | 4804.0225 |
| | | | | 4805.0066 |
| | | | | 4805.0194 |
| | | | | 4805.0326 |
| | | | | 4805.0461 |
| | | | | 4805.0582 |
| | | | | 4805.0721 |
| | | | | 4805.0842 |
| | | | | 4805.0988 |
| | | | | 4805.1111 |
| | | | | 4805.1257 |
| | | | | 4805.1378 |
| | | | | 4805.1517 |
| | | | | 4805.1570 |
| | | | | 4805.1702 |
| | | | | 4805.1830 |
| | | | | 4805.1976 |
| | | | | 4805.2117 |
| | | | | 4805.2238 |
| | | | | 4806.0007 |
| | | | | 4806.0142 |
| | | | | 4806.0288 |
| | | | | 4807.0122 |
| | | | | 4807.0250 |
| | | | | 4807.0396 |
| | | | | 4808.0006 |
| | | | | 4810.0003 |
| | | | | 4811.0008 |
| | | | | 4812.0034 |
| | | | | 4813.0007 |
| | | | | 4813.0110 |
| | | | | 4813.0256 |
| | | | | 4814.0001 |
| | | | | 4814.0161 |
| | | | | 4814.0282 |
| | | | | 4815.1503 |
| | | | | 4815.1649 |
| | | | | 4815.1777 |
| | | | | 4815.1909 |
| | | | | 4815.2039 |
| | | | | 4815.2167 |
| | | | | 4816.0018 |
| | | | | 4816.0107 |
| | | | | 4816.0210 |
| | | | | 4816.0356 |
| | | | | 4817.0005 |
| | | | | 4818.0031 |
| | | | | 4818.0095 |
| | | | | 4818.0298 |
| | | | | 4818.0437 |
| | | | | 4818.0704 |
| | | | | 4819.0004 |
| | | | | 4820.0007 |
| | | | | 4821.0058 |
| | | | | 4821.0097 |
| | | | | 4821.0535 |
| | | | | 4821.0713 |
| | | | | 4821.0859 |
| | | | | 4821.0987 |
| | | | | 4821.1103 |
| | | | | 4821.1377 |

## Switzerland

| Common customs tariff heading | Description | Quota serial no. | 1976 quota levels (metric tonnes) | Corresponding 1976 tariff/trade code no. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Chapter 48 | Paper and paperboard articles of paper pulp, of paper or of paperboard. | | | |
| 48.01 | Paper and paperboard (including cellulose wadding), machine made, in rolls or sheets: | | | |
| | C. Kraft paper and kraft board: | | | |
| | ex II. Other, excluding kraft liner and sack kraft | 2036 | 159 tonnes | 4801.0513 |
| | | | | 4801.0641 |
| | | | | 4801.0673 |
| | | | | 4801.1070 |
| | | | | 4801.1145 |
| | | | | 4801.1234 |
| | | | | 4801.1316 |
| | | | | 4801.1451 |
| | | | | 4801.1526 |
| | | | | 4801.1572 |
| | | | | 4801.1647 |
| | | | | 4801.1711 |
| | | | | 4801.1800 |
| | | | | 4801.2037 |
| | | | | 4801.2101 |

| Common customs tariff heading | Description | Quota serial no. | 1976 quota levels (metric tonnes) | Corresponding 1976 tariff/trade code no. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | ex E other: Bible paper (India paper), copying tissue: other printing paper and other writing paper, not containing mechanical woodpulp, or in which mechanical woodpulp does not represent more than 5% | 2109 | 222 tonnes | 4801.5599<br>4801.5720<br>4801.5994<br>4801.6516<br>4801.4935* |
| * Copying tissue only. | | | | |
| | Wallpaper base | 2494 | 256 tonnes | 4801.7397 |
| 48.03 | Parchment or greaseproof paper or paperboard, and imitations thereof, and glazed transparent paper, in rolls or sheets | 2559 | 132 tonnes | 4803.0003<br>4803.0067<br>4803.0195<br>4803.0334<br>4803.0455 |
| 48.07 | Paper and paperboard, impregnated, coated, surface-coloured, surface-decorated or printed (not being merely ruled, lined or squared and not constituting printed matter within Chapter 49), in rolls or sheets: B. Other Coated printed or writing paper | 2656 | 159 tonnes | 4807.1174<br>4807.1306<br>4807.1441<br>4807.1562<br>4807.1701 |
| | Other | 2745 | 615 tonnes | 4807.0510<br>4807.0656<br>4807.0784<br>4807.0916<br>4807.1046<br>4807.1847<br>4807.1968<br>4807.2109<br>4807.2244<br>4807.2365<br>4807.2504<br>4807.2760<br>4807.2899<br>4807.2963<br>4807.3093<br>4807.3225<br>4807.3353<br>4807.3481<br>4807.3613 |
| 48.16 | Boxes, bags and other packing containers of paper or paperboard | 2869 | 228 tonnes | 4816.0018<br>4816.0107<br>4816.0210<br>4816.0356 |
| ex 48.21 | Other articles of paper-pulp, paper, paperboard or cellulose wadding: | 2893 | 154 tonnes | 4821.0097<br>4821.0535<br>4821.0713<br>4821.0859<br>4821.0987<br>4821.1103<br>4821.1377 |
| ex Chapter 48 | Other products of Chapter 48 excluding products of subheading No. 48.01 A and heading 48.09 | 3007 | 575 tonnes | 4801.0196<br>4801.0310<br>4801.0495<br>4801.0577<br>4801.0716<br>4801.0851<br>4801.0919<br>4801.0997<br>4801.1394<br>4801.1896<br>4801.1978<br>4801.2304<br>4801.2432<br>4801.2560<br>4801.2699<br>4801.2820 |
| | | | | 4801.2966<br>4801.3096<br>4801.3210<br>4801.3356<br>4801.3616<br>4801.3751<br>4801.3872<br>4801.4159<br>4801.4287<br>4801.4419<br>4801.4554<br>4801.4675<br>4801.4935<br>4801.5065<br>4801.5204<br>4801.5282<br>4801.5421<br>4801.5542<br>4801.5866<br>4801.6110<br>4801.6256<br>4801.6384<br>4801.6594<br>4801.6726<br>4801.6861<br>4801.6982<br>4801.7123<br>4801.7269<br>4801.7529<br>4801.7785<br>4802.0009<br>4802.0176<br>4802.0308<br>4804.0008<br>4804.0093<br>4804.0225<br>4805.0066<br>4805.0194<br>4805.0326<br>4805.0461<br>4805.0582<br>4805.0721<br>4805.0842<br>4805.0988<br>4805.1111<br>4805.1257<br>4805.1378<br>4805.1517<br>4805.1570<br>4805.1702<br>4805.1830<br>4805.1976<br>4805.2117<br>4805.2238<br>4806.0007<br>4806.0142<br>4806.0288<br>4807.0122<br>4807.0250<br>4807.0396<br>4808.0006<br>4810.0003<br>4811.0008<br>4812.0034<br>4813.0007<br>4813.0110<br>4813.0256<br>4814.0001<br>4814.0161<br>4814.0282<br>4815.1503<br>4815.1649<br>4815.1777<br>4815.1909<br>4815.2039<br>4815.2167<br>4815.2295<br>4815.2352<br>4815.2434<br>4815.2555<br>4815.2690<br>4815.2822<br>4815.2950<br>4815.3098<br>4815.3237<br>4815.3358<br>4815.3493<br>4815.3625<br>4815.3753<br>4815.3881<br>4815.4015<br>4815.4143<br>4817.0005<br>4818.0031<br>4818.0095<br>4818.0298<br>4818.0437<br>4818.0704<br>4819.0004<br>4820.0007<br>4821.0058 |

## Portugal

| Common customs tariff heading | Description | Quota serial no. | 1976 quota levels (metric tonnes) | Corresponding 1976 tariff/trade code no. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ex Chapter 48 | Paper and paperboard: articles of paperpulp, of paper or of paperboard with the exception of products of subheading No. 48.01A and heading 48.09 | 2966 | 627 tonnes | — |

## Iceland

| Common customs tariff heading | Description | Quota serial no. | 1976 quota levels (metric tonnes) | Corresponding 1976 tariff/trade code no. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ex Chapter 48 | Paper and paperboard: articles of paperpulp, of paper or of paperboard with the exception of products of subheading No. 48.01A and heading 48.09 | 2923 | 10 tonnes | — |

## Chapter 49 Duty-free quotas: printed matter

| Common customs tariff heading | Description | Corresponding 1976 tariff/trade code no. | 1976 quota levels (of sterling) | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ex Chapter 49 | Printed books. newspapers, pictures and other products of the printing industry: manuscripts typescripts and plans – subject to customs duties in the Common Customs Tariff (headings nos. 49.03, 49.05A, 49.07A, 49.07C II, 49.08, 49.09, 49.10, 49.11B) | 4903.0006<br>4905.0133<br>4907.0303<br>4907.0997<br>4908.0009<br>4909.0003<br>4909.0149<br>4909.0252<br>4910.0006<br>4910.0166<br>4910.0294<br>4911.1643<br>4911.1789<br>4911.1903<br>4911.2033<br>4911.2179<br>4911.2300<br>4911.2439<br>4911.2567<br>4911.2695<br>4911.2834<br>4911.2955<br>4911.3085 | Austria<br>Finland<br>Iceland<br>Norway<br>Portugal<br>Sweden<br>Switzerland | £196,519<br>£212,205<br>£1,988<br>£50,049<br>£11,810<br>£743,605<br>£834,502 |

**Co-operation between two British companies, Asme Vessels Ltd., Gillingham, Kent, and Courtaulds Engineering Ltd., Coventry, is enabling the Russian winter to be beaten. The delivery date for four aqueous layer storage tanks, seen being constructed by Asme Vessels for Courtaulds Engineering, has been brought forward by two months to enable shipment to be made before ice blocks the Russian ports. The tanks are too wide for the Russian railways. The tanks are constructed in 316 grade stainless steel and are 30 ft long by 9 ft 6 in diameter with dished ends.**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# Notices to Importers

**Issued by the Department of Trade, Import Licensing Branch, Charles House, 375 Kensington High Street, London W14 8QH.**

# No. 1527: Imports of textiles from the Republic of Korea – revised arrangements

*Note:* the arrangements set out in this Notice supersede the existing quota arrangements for textiles from the Republic of Korea.

The Community has negotiated and initialled an Agreement with the Republic of Korea on trade in textiles for the calendar years 1976 and 1977. The Agreement provides for voluntary restraint to keep exports to the Community of certain textile products intended for domestic consumption at agreed levels. The Agreement will come into operation on 1 January 1976.

**Scope of the Agreement and quantitative levels to be applied under Community arrangements.** The textile items covered by the Agreement and the levels to be adhered to by the Republic of Korea in respect of those exports to the United Kingdom, are set out in the Annex to this Notice. The Korean authorities will administer the quotas by issuing export certificates to Korean exporters for onward transmission direct to United Kingdom importers. These certificates, together with a completed form ILB/A should be sent by the importer to Import Licensing Branch who will issue import licences up to the appropriate overall quota limit.

**Existing United Kingdom restrictions on textiles from the Republic of Korea that are not affected by the Community arrangements.** Interim arrangements pending completion of the Community arrangements for imports of cotton and polyester/cotton textiles from Korea for the period 1 January to 30 September 1975 were set out in Notice to Importers Nos. 1474 and 1491. Some of these textiles whose levels of export to the United Kingdom are currently restrained are not however covered by the EEC/Korea Agreement. The existing arrangements for these particular textiles are unaffected by the EEC arrangements and the licensing requirements remain effective for the time being. A further announcement about future quota levels and import arrangements will be made as soon as possible.

**Imports for re-export.** Imports of restricted textiles from the Republic of Korea will not be set off against the quotas if they are re-exported *outside the EEC* in the same state or after limited processing. The general import licensing arrangements for restricted textiles re-exported from the United Kingdom are set out in Notice to Importers No. 1441.

**United Kingdom import surveillance.** Most textiles from the Republic of Korea and other non-EEC countries are subject to United Kingdom surveillance arrangements, and descriptions of the goods and licensing arrangements are set out in Notice to Importers Nos. 1484 and 1502. Importers should note that all 'surveillance' licences issued in respect of goods from Korea which are to be subject to new quota restrictions from 1 January 1976 will be revoked from that date. This does not apply to surveillance licences issued for spun acrylic yarn (ex 56.05 A) on which emergency measures were imposed on 18 November (see NTI 1523 published in *Trade and Industry* of 21 November).

**Emergency quotas imposed in August 1975.** As stated in Notice to Importers 1526 published in *Trade and Industry* of 28 November it was expected that small balances of the emergency quotas imposed on woven fabrics of man-made fibre and woven shirts for 1975 might remain after licences had been issued against outstanding irrevocable letters of credit. This has proved to be the case and further licences are now being issued on the basis of importers' past trade. No balances remain, however, for the other two quotas mentioned in that Notice.

Inquiries: Import Licensing Branch, tel. 01-603 4644 ext. 300.

ANNEX

TEXTILES ORIGINATING IN THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA
UK quota levels under Community arrangements

| Category no. | Tariff heading | Description of goods | UK quota levels 1976 | 1977 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | ex 55.09<br>ex 56.07 | Woven fabrics of cotton or of man-made fibres (1,000kg)<br>of which: | 1,714 (a) | 1,898 (a) |
| 1A | ex 55.09<br>ex 56.07 | Woven fabrics of cotton or of synthetic textile fibres other than unbleached or bleached (1,000kg)<br>((a) of which not more than 20% for woven fabrics of synthetic textile fibres) | 253 (a) | 265 (a) |
| 2 | ex 56.05 | Yarn of synthetic textile fibres (discontinuous):<br>of synthetic textile fibres (1,000kg) | 1,295 | 1,378 |
| 3 | ex 60.04 | Undergarments, knitted or crocheted:<br>Shirts, T-shirts, undervests, singlets and the like (1,000 units) | 1,708 | 1,995 |
| 4 | ex 60.05 | Outer garments and other articles knitted or crocheted:<br>Jerseys, pullovers, slip-overs, twin-sets, cardigans, bed-jackets and jumpers (1,000 units) | 11,860 | 11,919 |
| 5 | ex 61.01<br>ex 61.02 | Men's and boys' outer garments:<br>Raincoats of the overcoat type<br>Women's, girls' and infants' outer garments:<br>Raincoats of the overcoat type (1,000 pieces) | 850 | 908 |
| 6 | ex 61.01<br>ex 61.02 | Men's and boys' outer garments:<br>Trousers, jeans, breeches and the like<br>Women's, girls' and infants' outer garments:<br>Trousers, jeans, breeches and the like (1,000 pieces) | 987 | 1,056 |
| 7 | ex 61.01 | Men's and boys' outer garments:<br>Suits (1 suit is counted as 2 pieces)<br>Jackets, blazers and the like (1,000 pieces) | 875 | 1,137 |
| 8 | ex 61.02 | Women's, girls' and infants' outer garments:<br>Shirts and blouses (1,000 pieces) | 2,140 | 2,217 |
| 9 | ex 61.03 | Men's and boys' undergarments, including collars, shirt fronts and cuffs:<br>Shirts (1,000 pieces) | 3,073 | 3,340 |
| 10 | ex 51.04 | Woven fabrics of man-made fibres (continuous) including woven fabrics of monofil or strip of heading 51.01 or 51.02:<br>of synthetic textile fibres (1,000 sq. m) | 14,000 | 14,980 |
| 11 | Not applicable to the UK | | | |
| 12 | Not applicable to the UK | | | |
| 13 | ex 60.05 | Outergarments, knitted or crocheted, other than:<br>Jerseys, pullovers, slip-overs, twin-sets, cardigans, bed-jackets and jumpers (tonnes) | 300 | 321 |

# Tariff and Trade Notices

## Sweden

**Textile imports: surveillance licensing.** A notice in *Trade and Industry*, 7 November 1975, page 360, warned of the introduction of surveillance licensing on textile and garment imports on 1 January 1976. Import licences are always required for the following commodities:

| BTN no. | Swedish statistical no. | Type of commodity |
|---|---|---|
| 51.04 | 101-404<br>409-901<br>903-905<br>909 | Fabrics of endless synthetic or regenerated fibres with the exception of crude fabrics and fabrics of regenerated textile material weighing 5gm/m² and above |
| 53.11 | All | Fabrics of sheeps wool or fine animal hair |
| 54.05 | 903-906<br>909 | Fabrics of flax or ramie (china grass) with the exception of clothing and tapestry weave |
| 55.06 | 900 | Cotton yarn in retail packages other than sewing thread |
| 55.08 | 900 | Terrytowel fabric and similar terrytowel fabrics of cotton with the exception of raw fabrics |
| 55.09 | 601-906<br>908, 909 | Cotton fabrics with the exception of raw fabrics, cord fabrics, and bleached surgical gauze and fabrics containing at least 40% by weight of endless regenerated fibres and raw fibres |
| 56.07 | 101-405<br>409-906<br>909 | Fabrics of short synthetic or regenerated fibres with the exception of fabrics containing at least 40% by weight of endless regenerated fibres and raw fibres |
| 58.04 | 500 | Velvet, looped and chenille fabrics with cotton loops |
| 58.05 | 002-009 | Woven ribbons and ribbons consisting of parallel threads or fibres stuck together other than goods listed under 58.06 with the exception of velvet, looped or chenille ribbons |
| 58.08 | 001 | Fishing nets of synthetic fibre |
| 59.04 | All | Twine and pack thread (sailmaker's twine) ropes and cords. Also plaited |
| 59.13 | 101-109 | Elastic bands consisting of textile material in combination with rubber threads |
| 60.03 | 112-199 | Hose, under hose, socks, ankle socks, stocking protectors, etc., with the exception of ladies stocking |
| 60.04 | All | Underwear, knitted |
| 60.05 | 102-809 | Knitted outerwear |
| 61.01 | All | Outerwear (not knitted) |
| 61.02 | All | |
| 61.03 | 102-209 | Shirts and nightclothes for men or boys |
| 61.04 | 102-109 | Nightclothes for women or girls |
| 62.01 | All | Travelling rugs and bedclothes |
| 62.02 | 102-109<br>312-399 | Sheets and towels and similar articles |

All applications for licences are to be accompanied by a confirmation order or other similar document which confirms that a preliminary purchase agreement has been concluded.

Certain textile products which originate in South Korea, Pakistan, India, Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong and Macao are already subject to export restraints in their country of origin. For these goods a copy of the appropriate export document must be attached to the import licence application.

No further information is available. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 458/461.

## Further Information

In many cases further information on the notices published on these pages is available to British exporters from the Department of Trade. The main branches concerned are: Commercial Relations and Exporters (CRE) Division, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET (tel: direct dialling); and Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section (OTAR), Export Data Branch, Export Services and Promotions Division, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (tel: 01-248 5757). In each case, the relevant information source is indicated at the end of the notice by its initials (OTAR or CRE) and, in the case of OTAR, the telephone extension. In the Tariff and Trade Notices section countries are grouped by continents as far as possible; they are listed alphabetically on the contents page.

## Norway

**Motor cars from the EEC and EFTA: duty removed.** The Norwegian Government has announced that from 24 October 1975 customs duties on motor cars from the EEC and the EFTA countries (including Finland) have been removed.

From this date also the basis for calculating the internal revenue tax, applied to all cars, has been altered as follows:

1 On the first KR 5,000 of the dutiable value the tax is reduced from 67 per cent to 65 per cent.
2 In excess of KR 5,000 of the dutiable value the tax is increased from 100 per cent to 110 per cent.

No further information is available at present. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 458/461.

## Spain

**Hides and skins: import duty suspended.** The Spanish *State Gazette*, 28 November 1975, announced the suspension of import duty, valid as from 1 November 1975 to 31 January 1976 inclusive, on

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hides and skins used in the footwear industry, classified under the following tariff headings:

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 41.02.A.1.a, | 41.02.A.1.b, | 41.03.A.1.a, | 41.03.A.1.b, | 41.03.A.1.c, | 41.03.A.1.d, |
| 41.03.A.2.a, | 41.03.A.2.b, | 41.04.B.1.a, | 41.04.B.1.b, | 41.04.B.1.c, | 41.05.A.1.a, |
| 41.05.A.1.b. | | | | | |

During the same period the import duty to be paid on goods under tariff heading 41.04.B.2 is reduced to 1.3 per cent and under tariff heading 41.04.B.3 to 2.4 per cent. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 462/471/472/473.

## Italy

**Reductions in value added tax rates.** The Italian *Informazioni per il Commercio Estero*, 12 November 1975, published details of the reduction in value added tax rates for certain products.

*Fertilisers.* VAT rate of 3 per cent in reduced to 1 per cent for the period 1 November 1975 to 30 June 1976.

*Food products.* Further to the notice in *Trade and Industry*, 24 October 1974 the reduced rates of 1 per cent or 3 per cent applicable to certain food products have been extended until 31 December 1976.

*Textiles.* Further to the notice in *Trade and Industry*, 24 October 1974, the reduced rate of 6 per cent levied on certain textile products has been extended until 31 December 1976.

Copies of the Italian text are obtainable from OTAR ext. 466/467/288.

## Yugoslavia

**Duties reduced.** The Yugoslav *Official Gazette* 48/1975 has reported that items represented by the following Yugoslav tariff numbers should be added to the list printed in *Trade and Industry*, 26 September 1974 of specific equipment for use in manufacture of cellulose, for which duties are reduced to 5 per cent until the end of 1975.

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ex 84.01/4 | ex 84.02/1 | ex 84.02/2 | ex 84.02/4 | ex 84.12/5 | ex 84.13/1a |
| ex 84.13/1b | ex 84.17/1d | ex 84.17/1g | ex 84.22/5e | ex 84.33/3 | ex 84.47/12 |
| ex 90.24 | ex 90.28 | | | | |

A number of additions have been made to the description of items in the original list.

According to the Yugoslav *Official Gazette* 48/1975, items for use in the civil aviation security programme represented by the following Yugoslav tariff numbers can be imported duty free:

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 85.01/1a–2cc | 85.13/6 | 85.15/3a | 85.15/3d | 85.16/2d | 90.28 | 92.11/3 |

Inquiries: OTAR 288/466/467.

## Lebanon

**Milk prepared as baby food: import regulations.** The Lebanese authorities have amended Arrete 65/1 of 8 February 1973 on packing and labelling instructions for milk prepared as baby food. The date of manufacture may now be shown on the container in print which cannot be erased except with a sharp instrument as an alternative to showing the date of manufacture in embossed (relief) form. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 475/7062.

**Tariff amendments.** The Lebanese authorities issued Decrees on 21 and 28 August 1975 amending the customs tariff as follows:

| Heading No. | Description of goods | Basis for collection | Normal tariff |
|---|---|---|---|
| 39.03 13 B1 | Regenerated cellulose | | |
| | Printed | Value | 18% |
| | Other | Value | 8% |
| 48.07 12 a | Paper impregnated with fatty substances, white | | |
| | Not printed | Value | 8% |
| | Other | Value | 18% |
| 48.15 61 f | Paper impregnated with fatty substances | | |
| | Printed | Value | 18% |
| 90.24 23 b | Apparatus for measuring humidity in soil, intended for use in agriculture (2) | Value | Free |

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 475/7062.

## Israel

**Standards.** The Standards Institution of Israel has issued the following standards:

| | |
|---|---|
| SI no. 153 | Boxes for insulated conduits with light steel sheath, 1975 |
| SI no. 182 | Electric flat irons, 1975 |
| SI no. 489 | Manhole covers for inspection chambers of sanitary installations 1975 |
| | The standards above have been declared official and compliance with them will become compulsory 60 days from 13 November 1975 |

The Standards Institution of Israel issues an English translation of the standard and copies may be obtained from British Standards Institution, 2 Park Street, London W1 (tel. 01-629 9000, telex 266933). British exporters requiring technical advice are advised to contact Technical Help to Exporters, British Standards Institution, Maylands Avenue, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HB1 1BR (tel. 0442-3111, telex 82424). Inquiries: OTAR ext. 458/461.

**Cheese and curd: import surcharge removed.** The import surcharge levied on cheese and curd (BN 04.04) has now been repealed. No further information is available. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 458/461.

## Nigeria

**Customs tariff.** Legal Notice 92 of 1975 published in the Federal Republic of Nigeria *Official Gazette* of 16 October 1975 amends, with effect from 26 September 1975, the Second Schedule to the Customs Tariff (Consolidation) Decree 1973 – Decree No. 6 as follows:

After paragraph 33 of Schedule 2 (which relates to exemptions from import duty) there shall be inserted the following new paragraph:

34. Meat imported by the Nigerian Livestock and Meat Authority.

This Order may be cited as the Customs Tariff (Duties and Exemptions) (No. 5) Order 1975.

EXPLANATORY NOTE (This does not form part of the above Order but is intended to explain its effect).

The Order abolishes import duty on meat imported by the Nigerian Livestock and Meat Authority as a Government measure towards easing the meat supply shortage in Nigeria. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 473/472/471/462.

## Sierra Leone

**Import licensing and exchange control.** Notification was given in *Trade and Industry*, 5 December 1975, page 649, of the revocation of General Import Licence No. 1 of 1975. Further details have now been received as follows:

Govt. Notice No. 1230

BANK OF SIERRA LEONE
EXCHANGE CONTROL
NOTICE TO IMPORTERS

1 As a result of the revocation, as from 3 November 1975, of the General Import Licence No. 1 of 1975, published as Government Notice No. 929 in Sierra Leone *Gazette* No. 62 of 12 September 1974, no orders for importation into Sierra Leone should be placed as from 3 November 1975 without specific Import Licences issued by the Ministry of Trade and Industry and with the consent of the Bank of Sierra Leone. This means that no payments for importation will be allowed for any imports based on Orders placed after that date which do not fulfil the above conditions.

2 Importers are therefore advised in their own interest not to place any Orders for imports without obtaining a Specific Import Licence from the Ministry of Trade and Industry. It is emphasised that no approval will be given for the purchase of foreign currency for such unauthorised imports.

3 All applications for purchase of foreign currency for payments for imports must be submitted to the Bank of Sierra Leone *through* the importers' bankers. The Exchange Control Department will scrutinise all applications to ensure compliance with the regulations before giving approval for payment. Importers are to note that any applications forwarded direct to the Exchange Control Department of the Bank of Sierra Leone will be rejected.

4 The authority vested in commercial banks under which they could make payment for imports on production of shipping documents has been revoked.

5 Importers are advised not to call at the Bank of Sierra Leone unless they have an appointment, but to channel all inquiries and information through their bankers.

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 473/472/471/462.

## Kenya

**Importation of commercial vehicles.** The East African Community Gazette Supplement No. 7, 31 August 1975, prohibits the importation into Kenya of medium or heavy commercial vehicles consigned from a foreign port after 1 January 1976. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 472/462/471/473.

## Malawi

**Raw material for plastic pipes.** The sixth schedule (Suspension of Duties) to the Customs and Excise Regulations is amended in Part 1 by the insertion of the following:

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ex 39.00.01 | Raw materials for the manufacture of plastic pipes | — | Free | Free | Free |

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 473/471/472/462.

## Zambia

**Fish: import regulations.** The Control of Goods (Import and Export) (Agriculture) (Amendment) Order 1975 published as Statutory Instrument 126 of 1975 amends the Control of Goods (Import and Export) (Agriculture) Regulations 1970 published as Statutory Instrument 76 of 1970 by adding the following new item after item 15 of the third schedule, which lists the goods requiring an import permit:

16 Fish, including fish meal.

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 473/471/472/462.

## South Africa

**Tariff application.** Customs Tariff Application List 696, published in the South African *Government Gazette*, 5 December 1975, contains an application to the Board of Trade and Industries for increase in duty on the following:

1 ammeters and voltmeters classifiable under tariff subheading 90.28.20.90. and
2 wire netting of iron or steel classifiable under tariff subheadings 73.27.30. and 73.27.40.

British trade organisations thought to be interested in the application are being informed. Any British firm affected which wishes to make representations to the South African Board of Trade and Industries and belongs to a trade organisation should, therefore, first contact its own trade association.

If any firm proposes to make independent representations to the South African authorities and requires further information concerning the application, it should address inquiries to CRE tel. 01-215 5274.


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| | |
|---|---|
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## Malaysia

**Import control.** The Malaysian Government has announced that from 16 October 1975 import of the following goods into the Malay States and Penang Island is subject to import licence:

| Heading No. | Description of goods | Country |
|---|---|---|
| 73.29 100 | Transmission chains for pedal cycles, of not more than 114 links | All countries |
| 84.61 210 | Bib cocks, stop cocks and pillar taps | All countries |

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 469/401/468.

## Thailand

**Steel bars, rods and wires: import surcharge:** The Thai Board of Investment announced on 15 October 1975 that a 15 per cent surcharge has been imposed on the import of the following until 31 December 1975:

Steel bars and rods according to customs tariff no. 73.10, which have been passed through the hot-rolling only, and no further process having been undertaken, particularly with a cross-cut in the form of a circle, including the Deformed Bars, with a cross-cut size of 4mm up to 60mm, but excluding steel bars and rods called 'free cutting carbon steel' containing sulphur in mixture at not less than 0.08 per cent by weight.

Steel wires which are not enamelled or tempered, with a cross-cut in the form of a circle and with a cross-cut size of 0.45mm up to 6mm according to customs tariff no. 73.14b.

Steel wires containing high carbon which are not enamelled or tempered according to customs tariff no. 73.15g (2).

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 469/401/468.

## Australia

**Woven plastic mats: dumping.** Anti-dumping action has been requested against imports of woven plastic mats. Further details will be published as soon as they are available, but in the meantime Australian Customs officials in the UK have been asked to carry out inquiries to establish the normal value. Ref. CRE 2151/75. Inquiries: CRE tel. 01-215 5319.

**Dehydrated onion and onion essence: temporary protection.** The Department of Manufacturing Industry in Australia has received a request for temporary protection against imports of dehydrated onion falling within tariff items 07.04.900 and 20.02.900, and onion essence falling within tariff item 21.07.900.

Requests for temporary protection are reviewed initially by the Department and, if it is considered that there is a prima facie case, it is submitted to the Special Minister of State. The Minister may refer the matter to the Temporary Assistance Authority for inquiry and report.

Any temporary protection which may be accorded on the recommendation of the Temporary Assistance Authority is in the nature of a holding action pending Government consideration of the general question of protection for the local industry following inquiry and report by the Industries Assistance Commission.

Exporters should note that the Australian Prime Minister has made it clear that should the need for urgent action emerge from these inquiries, goods ordered but not cleared for home consumption at the date of the announcement, will be subject to the terms of the action. Australian importers have been urged therefore to exercise caution in placing orders overseas and in entering into financial commitments on such orders as special consideration may not be given to outstanding commitments should action be taken by the Government.

Evidence must be formally submitted at a public hearing, either by a nominated representative of the firm or trade association concerned, or through the Australian British Trade Association, 21 Tothill Street, London SW1 (tel. 01-799 7447), who will represent UK interests if authorised. The association charges a fee for its services, the amount varying according to the work entailed in the preparation of a submission and whether or not the interested party is a member.

UK firms or trade associations intending to submit evidence should advise the Secretary, Industries Assistance Commission, PO Box 80, Canberra, ACT 2600, Australia, without delay through their accredited agent, indicating the goods with which they are concerned, and the request they anticipate submitting. Ref. CRE 2152/75. Inquiries: CRE tel. 01-215 5319.


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## Fiji

**Tariff amendments.** The Fiji Comptroller of Customs and Excise has issued several amendments to the Fiji customs tariff which came effective from 14 November 1975. The changes affect duty-rates in the tariff and details are available from OTAR. Inquirers should quote the Brussels Tariff Nomenclature number, if known, and give a detailed description of the goods in which they are interested. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 469/468/401.

## United States

**Ingredient labelling of alcoholic beverages.** Following the announcement by the US Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms of its withdrawal of proposals for the ingredient labelling of all alcoholic beverages, the US Food and Drug Administration has withdrawn its memorandum of understanding with the BATF and announced its own plan to enforce the ingredient labelling of alcoholic beverages under the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act. The effective date of the FDA requirements will be 1 January 1977. Copies of the announcements (which were published in the *Federal Register*, 24 November) are available. Inquiries: CRE tel. 01-215 5397.

**Toy safety.** The US *Federal Register*, 25 November 1975, published a notice that the National Bureau of Standards is circulating a recommended standard of safety requirements for a wide range of toys used by children up to 14 years of age. Copies are available from the Standards Development Services Section, National Bureau of Standards, Washington D.C. 20234. Written comments should reach this address by 10 January 1976. A copy of the text is available to British exporters from OTAR ext. 456/457/7312.

## Jamaica

**Import licences in 1976.** Jamaica's Trade Administrator has announced his intention to issue interim import quotas for 1976. Payment against such quotas will not be authorised earlier than 1 January 1976. Quota vouchers are not transferable. Licences will be granted only against an approved quota. Special interim import quotas will be required for certain sensitive items in the interest of

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protecting local industry or conserving limited foreign exchange. These goods include – but are not limited to – alcoholic beverages, cereals, dairy products, fish (fresh, chilled or frozen), dried and preserved fruits, building boards, dry cell batteries, and clothing.

The Minister of Marketing and Commerce has warned that in 1976 a tighter policy may become necessary even in areas where a comparatively free hand has been given in previous years.

No further details are available. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 7312/456/457.

## French Guiana, Martinique and Réunion

**Manufactured tobacco: consumption tax.** The French *Journal Officiel*, 9 November 1975, announced a revision of the rates of consumption tax on manufactured tobacco imported into French Guiana, Martinique and Réunion, which came into force as from 1 October 1975.

Previously there were two rates of consumption tax – a lower rate which applied to products of third country origin, and a higher rate which applied to products of EEC origin, which was intended to compensate for the fact that products of EEC origin entered duty-free.

This resulted in an anomalous position for UK products, since the higher rate of tax was being applied to products from the new members of EEC, although their goods were still subject to residual import duty.

From 1 October 1975 there are three rates of consumption tax, the highest for products from the original six members of EEC, the lowest for products of third country origin, and an intermediate rate for products from the new members of EEC, including the UK.

Guadeloupe is not affected by these changes.

The French text can be sent on request or seen at Export House. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 423/408/482/7174.

## Dominican Republic

**Seals for soft drink bottles.** Law 261 of 19 November 1975 prohibits the importation of crown caps and other seals for use on soft-drink bottles. In future any sent to the Dominican Republic will be returned or destroyed at the importer's expense. No further information is available. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 474/476.

## Venezuela

**Duty increases.** Resolution 7,268 introduced by the Venezuelan authorities on 21 November 1975 increases the duty on the following BTN numbers (previous duties shown in brackets):

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 73.10.01.00 | 60% | (30%) | 73.11.05.00 | 60% | (30%) |
| 73.10.02.00 | 60% | (30%) | 73.11.06.00 | 60% | (30%) |
| 73.10.03.00 | 60% | (30%) | 73.11.07.00 | 60% | (30%) |
| 73.10.04.00 | 60% | (30%) | 73.25.01.02 | 60% | (1%) |
| 73.10.06.00 | 60% | (30%) | 84.28.01.05 | 60% | (40%) |
| 73.11.02.01 | 60% | (30%) | 84.28.02.03 | 60% | (40%) |
| 73.11.03.01 | 60% | (30%) | 84.28.02.04 | 60% | (40%) |
| 73.11.04.01 | 60% | (30%) | | | |

This resolution also requires goods under 73.13.01.04.01 to obtain a licence from the Ministerio de Fomento before importation will be allowed. British exporters wanting further information should specify the products with which they are concerned. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 474/476.

**Tariff amendments.** In accordance with Decision 70 of the Cartagena Agreement, the Venezuelan customs authorities are required to initiate an approximation process (second approximation) to bring their rates of duty a stage nearer the Andean Pact's Minimum Common External Tariff. Consequently, Decree 952, issued on 3 June 1975, entered into force on 16 November 1975 (two days after its publication in *Gaceta Oficial Extraordinario*, 1,779).

All or parts of the following tariff numbers are affected:

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 01.01 | 01.03 | 01.04 | 01.05 | 01.06 | 02.01 | 02.02 | 02.04 | 02.05 | 02.06 | 03.01 |
| 05.02 | 05.03 | 05.04 | 05.06 | 05.07 | 05.08 | 05.09 | 05.15 | 06.03 | 07.04 | 07.05 |
| 08.07 | 08.08 | 09.01 | 09.02 | 09.05 | 09.06 | 09.07 | 09.08 | 09.09 | 09.10 | |
| 11.01 | 11.02 | 11.07 | 12.01 | 12.02 | 12.03 | 12.05 | 12.09 | 12.10 | 13.01 | 13.03 |
| 15.01 | 15.06 | 15.08 | 15.11 | 16.04 | 19.01 | 20.02 | 20.06 | 20.07 | 21.07 | 22.09 |
| 23.02 | 25.04 | 25.07 | 25.13 | 25.19 | 25.26 | 25.27 | 25.30 | 26.01 | 26.03 | 26.04 |
| 27.02 | 27.03 | 27.05 | 27.10 | | | | | | | |
| 28.04 | 28.05 | 28.07 | 28.08 | 28.09 | 28.11 | 28.13 | 28.15 | 28.18 | 28.19 | 28.27 |
| 28.28 | 28.30 | 28.32 | 28.38 | 28.39 | 28.42 | 28.53 | 29.01 | 29.14 | 29.16 | 29.42 |
| 32.10 | 32.13 | 33.01 | 33.04 | 33.05 | 34.04 | 34.07 | 36.04 | 36.06 | 36.08 | 38.07 |
| 38.11 | 38.17 | 39.07 | | | | | | | | |
| 40.01 | 40.06 | 40.12 | 40.14 | 40.15 | 40.16 | 41.01 | 41.07 | 42.04 | 42.05 | 43.01 |
| 43.02 | 43.03 | 43.04 | 44.11 | 44.14 | 44.28 | 45.03 | 45.04 | 46.01 | 46.02 | 47.01 |
| 48.10 | 48.11 | 48.21 | 50.07 | 53.01 | 53.02 | 53.05 | 54.01 | 54.03 | 54.04 | 58.01 |
| 58.07 | 59.01 | 59.11 | 59.12 | 59.14 | | | | | | |
| 60.02 | 60.06 | 61.11 | 62.04 | 62.05 | 63.01 | 63.02 | 64.03 | 65.03 | 65.04 | 65.05 |
| 65.06 | 65.07 | 66.01 | 67.02 | 68.04 | 68.06 | 68.10 | 68.13 | 68.16 | 69.11 | |
| 70.01 | 70.06 | 70.09 | 70.10 | 70.13 | 70.14 | 70.15 | 70.20 | 70.21 | 71.05 | 71.06 |
| 71.07 | 71.08 | 71.10 | 71.13 | 73.03 | 73.21 | 73.23 | 73.25 | 73.30 | 73.35 | 73.36 |
| 73.37 | 73.38 | 73.39 | 73.40 | 74.05 | 74.06 | 74.11 | 74.14 | 74.16 | 74.18 | 76.02 |
| 76.10 | 76.13 | 76.15 | 76.16 | 78.01 | 78.03 | 78.04 | 79.01 | 79.02 | 79.03 | |
| 80.01 | 80.05 | 80.06 | 82.04 | 82.05 | 83.01 | 83.02 | 83.03 | 83.04 | 83.05 | 83.06 |
| 83.07 | 83.09 | 83.15 | 84.02 | 84.03 | 84.08 | 84.13 | 84.14 | 84.15 | 84.17 | 84.18 |
| 84.20 | 84.21 | 84.22 | 84.24 | 84.30 | 84.34 | 84.39 | 84.48 | 84.51 | 84.54 | 84.59 |
| 84.61 | 84.65 | | | | | | | | | |
| 85.03 | 85.04 | 85.06 | 85.10 | 85.11 | 85.12 | 85.16 | 85.17 | 85.20 | 86.05 | 86.07 |
| 86.09 | 86.10 | 87.10 | 87.11 | 87.12 | 87.13 | 87.14 | 89.01 | 89.04 | 89.05 | |
| 90.18 | 90.19 | 90.23 | 90.24 | 90.26 | 91.10 | 92.02 | 92.06 | 92.10 | 92.12 | 93.04 |
| 93.05 | 93.06 | 93.07 | 94.02 | 95.01 | 95.04 | 95.05 | 95.06 | 96.02 | 96.03 | 96.06 |
| 97.01 | 97.06 | 97.07 | 97.08 | 98.03 | 98.05 | 98.06 | 98.07 | 98.09 | 98.10 | 98.14 |

British exporters with inquiries should specify the products with which they are concerned. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 474/476.

## Uruguay

**Prior deposit exemptions.** Resolution to Circular 682 of 15 October 1975 exempts from the payment of Prior Deposits the following:

1 Partially assembled diesel motors, kits and parts of kits for such motors destined for assembly plants, with a power of between 40 hp and 180 hp

2 Assembled kits for tractors and lorries for agricultural use.

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 474/476.

**Wheel aligners and balancers.** Uruguayan decree 804/975 of 23 October 1975 amends tariff headings 90.16.02; 90.16.03; 90.28.89 to show the following items:

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 90.16.02.85 | Aligners and balancers for wheels | Thousand | kg | N$28.40 | 84% |
| 90.16.03.01 | Aligners and balancers for wheels | Thousand | kg | N$28.40 | 84% |
| 90.16.03.99 | Other | | | Ad val | 84% |
| 90.28.89.07 | Aligners and balancers for wheels | Thousand | kg | N$28.40 | 84% |

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 474/476.

**Duty exemptions.** Decree 735/975 extends the exemptions from customs duties and taxes, additional taxes and port dues for the importation of precision instruments, or instruments for physics and chemistry when these are imported by the Laboratories of Pharmaceutical Specialities until 15 August 1976.

Decree 801/975 exempts goods in the following BN headings from the payment of customs and additional duties, port dues and import duties: 90.11; 90.12; 90.15; 90.22; 90.23; 90.25; 90.26; 90.28. No further information is available. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 474/476.

**Tobacco: specific consumption tax rescinded.** Law 14.456/975 of 4 November 1975 revokes the specific consumption tax on cigars, cigarettes and tobacco. These taxes varied between 42 per cent and 67 per cent of the selling price. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 474/476.

## Chile

**Exchange rates.** The Chilean Central Bank announced the following revised exchange rates during November.

10 November 'Bank' and 'Brokers' rates raised from Pesos($) 7.10 to $ 7.50 per US dollar.

25 November Both rates raised from Pesos($) 7.50 to $ 7.80 per US dollar.

Inquiries: CRE tel. 01-215 5289.

# European Community News

## European Council reaches agreement on CIEC

### Mr. Wilson reports to Commons on heads of government compromise

In a statement to the Commons on 3 December after his return from the European Council EEC heads of government meeting in Rome, the Prime Minister explained that a compromise agreement was reached on the arrangements for the Conference on International Economic Co-operation (CIEC) 'which fully safeguards Britain's interests'.

On substance, he said, agreement was reached for the first time in the Community on two important elements which had already been agreed by eight member states in the International Energy Agency, including the United Kingdom – namely, emergency oil sharing and the principle of a minimum safeguard price mechanism.

Emphasising the last point, Mr. Wilson quoted from the text of the Rome agreement that 'the Council will decide as soon as possible appropriate mechanisms to protect existing supplies and ensure the development of alternative sources of Community energy, on reasonable economic terms, and to encourage conservation in the use of energy.'

'In October', he said 'we made clear in Europe – I did myself directly to the Federal German Chancellor – that we were concerned to get a viable agreed Community position on energy before the conference. We made it clear that it seemed to us reasonable that the nine member states should be represented through the Community where there was a common policy, but that there was every reason why the United Kingdom should be present in its own right, as one of the eight industrialised country representatives at a conference of such far-reaching importance, so that we could put forward our own views where these were not covered by a Community mandate.'

Mr. Wilson went on to explain that the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs had made this clear to the House in November. 'What was important, as he stressed and I have stressed, was that we should have a much more far-reaching, agreed mandate for the Community as a whole.'

Mr. Wilson said he believed that the agreement which Mr. Callaghan and he 'were able to secure after lengthy discussion in Rome – very lengthy – namely, that the United Kingdom should have a separate voice both at the ministerial conference and in the four commissions which will subsequently be meeting at official level, achieved our purpose.

Mr. Wilson and Mr. Callaghan at the Rome conference table.

'The Community will be represented by a single delegation and the spokesman will be the Presidency of the Council with the Commission.' But, Mr. Wilson said, during the ministerial conference the United Kingdom and Luxembourg would be invited to present additional statements throughout the meeting and, in the four commissions representatives of member states who would form part of the Community delegation would also be able to comment on specific questions.

The UK statements, both at the ministerial conference and in the commissions, would be consistent with whatever Community position or mandate had been agreed by this country. 'But our interventions, both by the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary at the ministerial conference and by our officials in the commissions, we shall be able to draw attention to particular problems and be able to make a United Kingdom contribution which reflects our own very different situation and experience.'

Referring to other subjects discussed in Rome, Mr. Wilson said there was general agreement with the UK's proposals on financial control in the Community 'on which I drew from our experience in the House of the working of our own Public Accounts Committee and the accounting officer system, proposals which I had put forward and which will be published shortly as a White Paper. I believe that this represents an important step towards ensuring effective control over voted expenditure in the Community.'

He explained that the European Council had agreed that direct elections to the European Parliament should take place in May or June 1978, but that any country unable to hold direct elections at that date should be allowed to appoint its representatives, as at present.

'I made it clear,' he went on, 'that we accept in principle the commitment to direct elections in the Treaty of Rome. This issue was decided by the referendum; article 138 (3) of the Treaty of Rome is mandatory. But I added that we required a

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further period for consultations with political parties in this House and for consideration of the matter by Parliament before we could adopt a final position about holding direct elections ourselves as early as 1978.' The Council would now continue to examine the matters to be decided at Community level, such as the number of seats and distribution between countries, and would prepare a draft convention for the Council next March.

Referring to the agreement for the introduction of a uniform passport which may be issued as from 1978, Mr. Wilson went on to explain that as far as passport union was concerned, 'I made it clear that, for our part, the timing would depend on progress with revision of our own nationality legislation, and I could give no assurances about the timing of that legislation.'

Mr. Wilson also reported that the European Council had adopted a British proposal that Community ministers responsible for law and order should meet to discuss matters coming within their competence.

## Assembly delegation visits budget council

Ministers at the EEC budget council on 3 December began by receiving a delegation from the European Assembly. The UK was represented at the meeting by Chief Secretary to the Treasury Joel Barnett.

Led by Assembly President Georges Spénale, the delegation introduced the Assembly's modifications and amendments to non-obligatory expenditure in the 1976 draft Community budget. The Assembly also asked the council to clarify the question of their margin of manoeuvre under this section of the budget.

After considering the questions raised, the council agreed to offer the Assembly an increase of this margin to 90 million units of account. Ministers also proposed that from this sum the Assembly should allocate 35 mua for research, 35 mua for the Social Fund, and 20 mua for aid to non-associates.

## Reimposition of Community duties on certain textile imports from Portugal

With effect from 7 December 1975, an Order has been made, increasing duties on imports of certain textiles originating in Portugal (as provided for in EEC Regulations 3166/75 and 3167/75 published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* L314, 4 December 1975, made under the terms of the EEC's agreement with Portugal – Protocol 1.

The Order, the Import Duties (General) (No. 6) Order 1975 (SI 1975 No. 2022) affects cotton yarn, not put up for retail sale, falling within tariff heading No. 55.05 and outer garments and other articles, knitted or crocheted, not elastic nor rubberised falling within tariff heading No. 60.05. The rates of duty from 7 December 1975 until 31 December 1975 on these goods, if previously eligible for duty-free entry, will be as follows:

| Tariff heading | Rate of duty | Tariff heading | Rate of duty |
|---|---|---|---|
| 55.05 A | 4.8% | 60.05 A I | 6.3% |
| B I a) | 2.4% | II | 10.8% |
| b) | 3.6% | B | 7.8% |
| II | 4.2% | | |

For goods originating in Portugal not hitherto eligible for duty-free entry the full rates of duty will be charged.

General inquiries should be addressed to General Division, Department of Trade, Room 333, Kingsgate House, 66-74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SJ, tel. 01-215 5491.

Copies of the Order will be available from HM Stationery Office as well as copies of the agreement between the EEC and Portugal signed on 22 July 1972 (Cmnd. 5164), and the *Official Journal*.

## New EIB loan for British Steel

A new £17.5 million loan has been awarded to the British Steel Corporation by the European Investment Bank, the EEC's long-term finance institution.

It will be used for installation of three new coating lines at BSC's coatings complex at Shotton, North Wales. The works being carried out at Shotton are costing some £56 million and include two new lines to increase production capacity for hot-dip galvanising and electro-zinc coating, as well as a new continuous coil colourcoating line.

The loan which is granted for 10 years at an interest rate of 9½ per cent, brings to almost £67 million the total of EIB finance provided for BSC's investment schemes in the past two years.

Previous loans were £8 million for a sinter plant at Port Talbot in South Wales, £12 million for a new bar mill at Thrybergh in Yorkshire, £14.7 million for a stripmill expansion project at Llanwern in South Wales, and the same sum for burden preparation facilities at the Corporation's Teesside complex.

All thesee projects form part of the BSC's 10-year plan for modernisation and expansion of the UK iron and steel industry.

## Euro-Arab dialogue: third meeting at expert level

After their third meeting at expert level, which took place in Abu Dhabi from 22–27 November, representatives of the European Community and the Arab League agreed that the talks had now passed the preparatory stage. In a joint statement they noted that a new era had been reached which would lead to the defining of dialogue objectives and operational instruments. The Abu Dhabi meeting followed earlier discussions in Cairo in June and in Rome in July.

**Special relationship**

The statement confirmed the will of the two sides to achieve positive results with a view to creating a special relationship.

The two sides examined the work of the joint working groups set up in Rome to review the priorities in the areas of co-operation agreed earlier in Cairo; these covered industrialisation, basic infrastructure, agriculture and rural development, financial co-operation, trade, scientific and technological co-operation, and cultural, labour and social questions.

**Definite steps**

The Abu Dhabi meeting reached agreemen on definite steps to be taken in some areas, and in others –including matters relating to basic infrastructure, industry and agriculture – it was agreed in principle to refer the subjects to specialised groups. The work of the specialised groups should begin after the General Committee has had an opportunity to approve their mandates. Both sides agreed on the need of convening a meeting of the General Committee at an early date.

## Have you a good export picture?

Each week *Trade and Industry* publishes pictures illustrating Britain's export business. Companies with export successes are invited to send in the story with a photograph showing the goods in manufacture, ready for despatch, or, preferably, on arrival overseas. The story must, of course, reach us while it is still news.

Send your export photographs to the Editor, *Trade and Industry*, Room 439, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET.

# Temporary suspension of CCT – parts and components for aircraft

## Aeroplanes and helicopters of an unladen weight exceeding 2,000kg but not exceeding 15,000kg

The detailed review, first announced in *Trade and Industry* of 9 January 1975 (page 76) of suspensions of EEC Common Customs Tariff (CCT) duties on parts and components for maintaining and repairing aeroplanes and helicopters in this weight range has now been completed. The items on which the duty will be suspended during 1976 are listed in the schedule below.

During the course of this year's review the possibility was discussed for the first time of establishing duty suspensions for parts and components for constructing aircraft in this category. However, it was felt that such an innovation could have wide results, not least because Community builders of such aircraft (unlike the constructors of aircraft over 15,000kg) are protected by an import duty against competing aircraft manufactured in third countries. It was decided therefore that in order to take proper account of the problems more time would be needed for further study and a re-examination of the question will take place early in 1976.

The Department would therefore welcome the views of aircraft builders and component manufacturers on whether it would be desirable in principle to draw up a list of duty suspensions on parts and components for constructing aircraft in the 2,000-15,000kg weight range and would want to know of any proposals for items which could be included in such a list. Naturally if a list is established the inclusion of any item will depend on the merits of the case. In consequence UK firms wishing to apply for duty suspensions should supply full details under the following headings:

1 the tariff heading and product description;
2 the aeroplanes and/or helicopters for which the product is required;
3 the source, total value and value per aircraft of the imports in 1976; and
4 a note of the steps taken to try to purchase the parts or components from Community (including UK) sources.

The list in the schedule (right) is expected to be the starting point of the review. If any UK company considers (i) that they could now or in the near future manufacture and supply any of the listed parts and components for use in the construction, repair or maintenance in the Community of any aeroplane or helicopter within this weight range, and (ii) that a suspension of the CCT duty on the product concerned would be detrimental to their interests they should inform the Department of Trade. Full details should be given of the product and of the aeroplanes or helicopters for which it is suitable. A further announcement will be made about any requests by the UK or other Member States for duty suspensions on other parts and components.

All the information requested in this notice should be sent not later than 2 January 1976 to the Department of Trade, General Division, Kingsgate House, 66-74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SJ, tel. 01-215 5512.

**Schedule**

List of products in respect of which Common Customs Tariff duties are totally or partially suspended where such products are intended to be used in the maintenance and repair of aeroplanes and helicopters of an unladen weight exceeding 2,000kg but not exceeding 15,000kg.

| CCT heading No. | Description of goods | CCT suspended rate of duty | Aircraft concerned | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Aeroplanes | Helicopters |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 38.19 | Chemical products and preparations of the chemical or allied industries (including those consisting of mixtures of natural products), not elsewhere specified or included; residual products of the chemical or allied industries, not elsewhere specified or included: | | | |
| | ex P. Preparations known as 'liquids for hydraulic transmission' (for example, hydraulic brake fluids) not containing or containing less than 70% by weight of petroleum oils or oils obtained from bituminous minerals: based on silicate and phosphoric esters | 0% | All aeroplanes | All helicopters |
| 73.20 | Tube and pipe fittings (for example, joints, elbows, unions and flanges) of iron and steel | 0% | All aeroplanes | All helicopters |
| 83.07 | Lamps and lighting fittings, of base metal, and parts thereof, of base metal (excluding switches, electric lamp holders, electric lamps for vehicles, electric battery or magneto lamps, and other articles falling within Chapter 85 except heading No. 85.22) | 0% | All aeroplanes | All helicopters |
| 84.10 | Pumps (including motor pumps and turbo pumps) for liquids, whether or not fitted with measuring devices; liquid elevators of bucket, chain, screw, band and similar kinds: | | | |
| | B. Other pumps: II. Other pumps | 0% | F 27 | — |
| | ex III. Parts of pumps referred to under sub-heading B II | 0% | F 27 | — |
| 84.61 | Taps, cocks, valves and similar appliances, for pipes, boiler shells, tanks, vats and the like, including pressure reducing valves and thermostatically controlled valves: | | | |
| | A. Pressure reducing valves | 0% | All aeroplanes | All helicopters |
| | ex B. Other: valves used in air-conditioning and cabin pressurisation systems | 0% | F 27 | — |
| ex 84.63 | Transmission shafts, cranks, bearing housings, plain shaft bearings, gears and gearing (including friction gears and gear-boxes and other variable speed gears), flywheels, pulleys and pulley blocks, clutches and shaft couplings: | | | |
| | Constant speed drive (CSD) apparatus | 0% | VFW 614 | — |
| 85.01 | Electrical goods of the following descriptions: generators, motors, converters (rotary or static), transformers, rectifiers and rectifying apparatus, inductors: | | | |
| | ex B. Transformers, static, converters, rectifiers and rectifying apparatus, inductors: rectifying transformers with an output of 100 amps at 28 volts for the DC electric generating system | 0% | VFW 614 | — |
| | ex C. Parts: Of DC generators of a power of 10.5 kW | 0% | F 27 | — |
| | Of rotary converters of AC 115 volts, 400 Hz, of a power of 250 VA or 1,800 VA | 0% | F 27 | — |
| | Of AC generators, 120/208 volts, of a power of 15 KVA | 0% | F 27 | — |
| | Of electric actuators for control of auxiliary flaps and ailerons | 0% | F 27 | — |
| | Of static converters of AC 115 volts, 400 Hz, of a power of 250 VA or 700 VA | 0% | F 27 | — |


## Have you a good industrial news picture?

**Pictures are published in *Trade and Industry* each week showing developments in British industry. If your company has introduced an interesting new product, if you have received an award, if you have developed a novel manufacturing process, if you have produced the biggest or smallest or heaviest or (you feel) the best designed product, you are welcome to send us a photograph with a short news story. Contributions should be sent promptly – while the subject is still newsworthy – to the Editor, *Trade and Industry*, Room 439, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET.**

| CCT heading No. | Description of goods | CCT suspended rate of duty | Aircraft concerned | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Aeroplanes | Helicopters |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 85.15 | Radiotelegraphic and radiotelephonic transmission and reception apparatus; radio-broadcasting and television transmission and reception apparatus (including receivers incorporating sound recorders or reproducers) and television cameras; radio navigational aid apparatus, radar apparatus and radio remote control apparatus: | | | |
| | A. Radiotelegraphic and radiotelephonic transmission and reception apparatus; radio-broadcasting and television transmission and reception apparatus (including receivers incorporating sound recorders or reproducers) and television cameras: | | | |
| | II. Transmitter-receivers | 8%* | All aeroplanes | All helicopters |
| | ex III. Receivers, whether or not combined with a sound recorder or reproducer, excluding radio-broadcasting or television apparatus | 8%* | All aeroplanes | All helicopters |
| | B. Other apparatus | 8%* | All aeroplanes | All helicopters |
| | C. Parts: | | | |
| | II. Parts of base metal, obtained by turning bars, angles, shapes, sections or wire, of solid section, the greatest diameter of which does not exceed 25mm | 8%* | All aeroplanes | All helicopters |
| | III. Other | 8%* | All aeroplanes | All helicopters |
| 90.24 | Instruments and apparatus for measuring, checking or automatically controlling the flow, depth, pressure or other variables of liquids or gases, or for automatically controlling temperature (for example, pressure gauges, thermostats, level gauges, flow meters, heat meters, automatic oven-draught regulators), not being articles falling within heading No. 90.14: | | | |
| | ex C. Other: | | | |
| | Pneumatic regulators used in air-conditioning and cabin pressurisation systems | 0% | F 27 | — |
| 90.28 | Electrical measuring, checking, analysing or automatically controlling instruments and apparatus: | | | |
| | ex A. Electronic instruments and apparatus: | | | |
| | Terrestrial magnetic-field detector apparatus, by saturation of magnetic circuits (flux valve) | 0%* | All aeroplanes | All helicopters |
| | Electronic regulators for air-conditioning | 0%* | All aeroplanes | All helicopters |
| | Fuel gauges | 0% | F 27 | — |
| | Electronic timers used in de-icing systems | 0% | F 27 | — |
| | ex B. Other: | | | |
| | Pressure transmitters used in air-conditioning and cabin pressurisation systems | 0% | F 27 | — |
| | Double pressure indicators used in air-conditioning and cabin pressurisation systems | 0% | F 27 | — |
| 90.29 | Parts or accessories suitable for use solely or principally with one or more of the articles falling within heading No. 90.23, 90.24, 90.26, 90.27 or 90.28: | | | |
| | ex A. Parts or accessories suitable for use solely or principally with the electronic instruments or apparatus falling within subheading 90.28 A: | | | |
| | of fuel gauges | 0% | F 27 | — |
| | of electronic timers used in de-icing systems | 0% | F 27 | — |
| | of other instruments or apparatus of heading No. 90.28 A included in this list | 0%* | All aeroplanes | All helicopters |
| | ex B. Other: | | | |
| | of instruments or apparatus falling within heading No. 90.28 B included in this list | 0% | F 27 | — |

* To be eligible for suspension, the products in question must be intended for the maintenance or repair of aeroplanes or helicopters of types certificated for the first time in a Member State of the Community before 1 January 1973 and which have been either constructed in the Community or imported and used at that date on regular routes by airline companies of the Community

## Temporary suspension of the CCT – asparagus fern

The Department of Trade has been notified of a proposal for a nw suspension of the Common Customs Tariff (CCT) of the Community to operate from an early (but as yet unspecified) date on fresh asparagus fern falling within tariff heading 06.04 B I. The proposal is that the CCT duty of 10 per cent should be temporarily reduced in 1976 and 1977 to 8 per cent. At the same time, the duty charged by the six original member states of the EEC against the three new member states would be totally suspended (the present rate of 6 per cent would otherwise be reduced to 4 per cent from 1 January 1976 and 2 per cent from 1 January 1977, before being abolished from 1 January 1978).

The Department wish to know if there are any United Kingdom producers that would object to the suspension. Producers might object because they consider that they could supply the whole or the greater part of the needs of the Community and that their interests would be more prejudiced by reduced tariff protection on imports from outside the EEC into the United Kingdom (which a partial suspension of the CCT would entail) than the greater opportunities for supplying the Community afforded by the abolition of intra-Community duties. United Kingdom producers who wish to object to the suspension should provide as much as possible of the following information:

1 estimated Community (nine countries, including the UK) demand in 1976 and 1977;

2 estimated United Kingdom demand in 1976 and 1977;

3 United Kingdom production expected to be available in 1976 and 1977 for:

3:1 the United Kingdom market;
3:2 the rest of the Community;
3:3 exports to other countries.

This information should be given in writing to the Department of Trade, General Division, Room 332, Kingsgate House, 66-74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SJ, not later than 24 December 1975. Inquiries: tel. 01-215 5519.

# Duty relief on educational, scientific and cultural materials: changed UK arrangements as from 1 January 1976

EEC council regulation No. 1798/75 on the duty free importation of educational, scientific and cultural materials reflects the obligations accepted under the UNESCO Florence Agreement (Cmd 9185), and has as its aim the harmonisation of member states' practices for giving duty relief on such materials. Whilst the main provisions of the EEC regulation come into force on 1 January 1976, these will not become fully binding on the United Kingdom until 1 July 1977, ie after the end of the transitional period when the United Kingdom will have fully aligned her external tariff to that of the EEC Common Customs Tariff. But the United Kingdom will, as from 1 January 1976 be making certain changes to the scope of her procedures for giving duty relief to ensure that her practices accord more closely with those in the EEC regulation.

The present arrangements for giving duty relief on scientific instruments and apparatus (Annex D to the Florence Agreement) are affected by the changes. The other annexes are either affected only to a minor degree or not at all. Details are as follows:

**Annex A Books, publications and documents**

No change

**Annex B Works of art and collectors' pieces of an educational, scientific or cultural character**

No change

**Annex C Visual and auditory materials of an educational, scientific or cultural character**

Films, filmstrips, microfilms and slides and sound recordings are covered by the Import Duties Reliefs Order, 1975 which comes into operation on 1 January 1976. A Notice on the scope of the Order was published in *Trade and Industry* on 14 November 1975.

Revised forms of application for duty relief are being prepared, together with an explanatory Public Notice prepared jointly by the Department of Trade and HM Customs and Excise Department, copies of which can be obtained from the address given at the end of this Notice or from any office of HM Customs and Excise.

**Annex D Scientific instruments or apparatus**

Scientific instruments or apparatus intended for educational purposes or pure scientific research consigned to approved users will continue to be eligible for duty relief under The Import Duties Act 1958 (Section 6 and Para 3 of the Fourth Schedule thereto). Intending applicants should however note that, when considering applications for relief, the Department of Trade will need to be satisfied that instruments or apparatus of equivalent scientific value are not being manufactured in the United Kingdom or, where appropriate, elsewhere in the EEC.

Furthermore, articles which are clearly not scientific instruments or apparatus but merely ancillary apparatus not to be used *directly* for teaching or research purposes, will no longer be eligible for duty relief. In particular, articles used for purposes connected with the preparation of research or teaching materials or for the recording or dissemination of results or for other indirect uses will no longer be eligible for duty relief.

Examples of items in these categories include cameras and film editing machines used for making educational films, microfilming equipment and laboratory glassware washing apparatus.

The conditions to which articles imported under a duty-free direction are subject are also being modified. Details of these changes will be notified when a direction is issued, and will be incorporated, together with the changes already mentioned, in the revised Public Notice 342. This, as well as a revised application form (DFA3), will be available shortly.

Applications in respect of articles ordered and imported before 1 January 1976 are not affected by these changes.

**Annex E Articles for the blind**

The present arrangements will continue. But the Department is prepared to consider applications for duty relief from eligible organisations in respect of the following additional items:

1 white walking sticks for use by the blind;
2 typewriters adapted for use by the blind;
3 apparatus for guiding the blind;
4 braille watches for the blind with cases in materials other than precious metal;
5 tables for games and associated equipment adapted for use by the blind.

The conditions to which articles imported under a duty-free certificate are subject are also modified. Details of the changes will be notified when a certificate is issued.

**Chemicals, art, promotion of sport**

Chemicals and articles to be used in art or for the promotion of sport will, for the time being, continue to be eligible for consideration for duty relief under existing arrangements.

Inquiries about this notice should be directed to the Department of Trade, General Division, Duty Remission Branch, Room 811, Sanctuary Buildings, 20 Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3DB (tel. 01-215 5971, 01-215 5976 or 01-215 5968).

## Generalised Tariff Preference Scheme (GSP): Restoration of normal duties

*Trade and Industry* of 20 February, 14 March, 18 April, 16 May, 13 June, 11 July, 15 August, 12 September, 10 October and 21 November gave details of GSP ceilings reached up to 3 November 1975. HM Customs have stated that the position on the restoration of normal duties for the month ending 1 December is as follows:

I TARIFF QUOTAS AND SPECIAL CEILINGS – NONE

II CEILINGS

| Tariff heading | Description of goods | Date of restoration of duties: From all sources | Date of restoration of duties: From particular sources (inner ceilings) |
|---|---|---|---|
| ex 29.14A IIc)1 | Vinyl acetate (monomer) | | Romania 23.11.75 |
| 56.07B | Woven fabrics of man-made fibres (discontinuous or waste): Of regenerated textile fibres | | South Korea 11.11.75 |
| 68.02 | Worked monumental or building stone, and articles thereof (including mosaic cubes), other than goods falling within heading No. 68.01 or within Ch. 69 | 1.12.75 | India 22.11.75 |
| 68.08 | Articles of asphalt or of similar material (eg of petroleum bitumen or coal tar pitch) | | Romania 22.11.75 |
| 68.13 | Fabricated asbestos and articles thereof (eg asbestos board, thread and fabric; . . .) etc. | | Yugoslavia 9.11.75 |
| 74.07 | Tubes and pipes and blanks therefor, of copper: hollow bars of copper | | Chile 28.11.75 |
| 85.01C | Electrical goods of the following descriptions: generators, motors, convertors (rotary or static) transformers, rectifiers and rectifying apparatus, inductors: – Parts | | Yugoslavia 11.11.75 |

Inquiries about current availability of preferences may be made to HM Customs and Excise, Central Tariff Quota Registration Unit, King's Beam House, Mark Lane, London EC3R 7HE, tel. 01-626 1515, ext. 2570.

## Tariff quotas 1975 – exhaustions

The following United Kingdom Tariff Quotas for imports of paper and board and printed products from individual EFTA countries and Finland (see the 28 November 1974 issue of *Trade and Industry*) have also been exhausted:

| Tariff heading | Country of origin | HM Custom's serial No. (Part 11 of the UK tariff) |
|---|---|---|
| ex 48.01E II | Finland | 2389 |
| 48.01E IIb) 2aa) ex 2bb) ex 3 and 5 | Austria | 2117 |

Inquiries about current tariff quota balances may be made to HM Customs, Central Tariff Quota Registration Unit, King's Beam House, Mark Lane, London EC3R 7HE, tel. 01-626 1515, ext. 2570.


## 'T & I' subscriptions and sales

Subscriptions and sales inquiries about *Trade and Industry* should be directed to HMSO at any of the following addresses: 49 High Holborn, London WC1V 6HB; 13a Castle Street, Edinburgh EH2 3AR; Brazennose Street, Manchester M60 8AS; 258 Broad Street, Birmingham B1 2HE; 41 The Hayes, Cardiff CF1 1JW; Wine Street, Bristol BS1 2BQ; 80 Chichester Street, Belfast BT1 4JY, or through any bookseller.

# New EC legislation

## Common Agricultural Policy

The texts of the following Regulations which affect the various agricultural sectors in the EEC have been published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*:

**General.** Regulation (EEC) 3058/75 amending regulations (EEC) 1059/69, (EEC) 1060/69, (EEC) 2682/72, (EEC) 2727/75, (EEC) 3330/74, (EEC) 765/68 and 950/68 as regards the classification in the Common Customs Tariff of certain types of sorbitol (*Official Journal* L306, 26 November 1975).

**Cattle, beef and veal.** Regulation (EEC) 3113/75 amending regulation (EEC) 848/75 as regards certain provisions relating to intra-Community trade in animals eligible for premiums. In Article 5 (4) of regulation 848/75 the date 1 December 1975 is amended to 1 March 1976 (*Official Journal* L309, 29 November 1975).

Regulation (EEC) 3115/75 amending for the sixth time regulation (EEC) 1090/75 on the issue by way of protective measures of import licences for certain beef and veal products (EXIM) (*Official Journal* L309, 29 November 1975).

**Animal feedingstuffs.** Regulation (EEC) 3116/75 amending regulation (EEC) 1913/69 on the granting and advance fixing of the export refund on cereal-based compound feedingstuffs (*Official Journal* L309, 29 November 1975).

**Sugar.** Regulation (EEC) 3118/75 fixing for the sugar marketing year 1974/75 the guaranteed quantity and the amount of the production levy and laying down certain associated special measures (*Official Journal* L309, 29 November 1975).

**Milk and milk products.** Regulation (EEC) 3066/75 on the prohibition of the use of inward processing arrangements in respect of butter (*Official Journal* L307, 27 November 1975).

Regulation (EEC) 3067/75 amending regulation 226/73 as regards the price to be observed at the cif stage for imports of New Zealand butter and cheese into the United Kingdom (*Official Journal* L307, 27 November 1975).

## Customs regulations

The *Official Jornal of the European Communities* L301, 20 November 1975, contains the text of directive 75/681/EEC amending directive 73/95/EEC in so far as it concerns the methods of application of inward processing.

**Further information.** HM Customs and Excise, Kings Beam House, Mark Lane, London EC3R 7HE, tel. 01-626 1515, ext. 2534.

## Common Customs Tariff

The *Official Journal of the European Communities* L306, 26 November 1975, contains the text of regulation 3057/75 temporarily and partially suspending the autonomous Common Customs Tariff duties on a number of agricultural products.

## Customs duties

Corrigendum. The *Official Journal of the European Communities* L306, 26 November 1975, contains the following correction to regulation (EEC) 2991/75 (published in *Official Journal* L297, 17 November 1975) on the tariff treatment applicable in the Community as originally constituted to a certain number of products imported from the new member states:

Page 1, Article 1, first line:
for: '1. From 1 January to 31 December 1975, the',
read: '1. From 1 January to 31 December 1976, the'.

## Imports from non-member states

The *Official Journal of the European Communities* L308, 28 November 1975, contains the text of decision 75/718/EEC authorising Italy not to apply Community treatment to bed linen, table linen, toilet linen and kitchen linen, curtains and other furnishing articles falling within heading No. 62.02 of the Common Customs Tariff, originating in China and in free circulation in the other member states.

## EEC rules of competition

The *Official Journal of the European Communities* L286, 5 November 1975, contains the text of a Commission decision dated 23 October 1975 relating to a proceeding under Article 85 of the Treaty of Rome.

75/649/EEC – Transocean Marine Paint Association (reference DGIV 223) concerning agreements between members of the Association for the world-wide distribution of certain marine paints used for the maintenance of merchant ships and other craft at different ports while the ships are in service.

Commission Decision of 21 December 1973 granted an exemption to the Transocean Marine Paint Association until 31 December 1978 in accordance with Article 85(3). On 23 October 1974 a Judgment of the European Court of Justice annulled Article 3(1)(d) of the Commission Decision that related to the obligation to supply information on links between Members of the Association and outside companies. Commission Decision of 23 October 1975 replaces Article 3(1)(d) and specifies what shall be regarded as a link between two enterprises within the Community paint sector.

**Further information.** Department of Prices and Consumer Protection, Fair Trading Division, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET, tel. 01-215 5092.

## Community Transit: use of TIR in intra Community trade

Traders involved in international road haulage should note that from 1 January 1976, TIR will cease to be available for the movement of goods wholly within the EEC. It will, however, remain available for movements which begin or are due to end outside the EEC.

This move gives effect to a decision taken by the EEC to terminate the use of TIR for internal Community movements on 31 December 1973. This date was postponed for a period of two years so as to give new member states time to adjust to the Community Transit system.

Information and public notices on the Community Transit system are available from any Customs and Excise Collectors Office.

## OTAR helps exporters to EEC

If you export to EEC countries OTAR handouts on the following subjects may interest you:

- Circulation certificates
- Documentation – transit certificates
- Invoicing requirements
- Temporary suspensions of duty
- Preferential trading arrangements between third countries and the Community
- Labelling of products

Copies of these and other handouts can be obtained free of charge from the Department of Trade's OTAR section. OTAR helps exporters needing information about the tariff and other requirements of all overseas countries.

Telephone or write to:

Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section (OTAR)
Export Services and Promotions Division

Department of Trade
Export House
50 Ludgate Hill
London EC4M 7HU
Tel. 01-248 5757, ext. 408/439/482
(EEC general inquiries)

# Publications on the European Communities

Listed below are official publications on European Communities' matters issued during the period 22 October-28 November 1975. All can be obtained from Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Orders, quoting the Standard Book Number (which in the list is given in brackets after each title), should be sent to HMSO, PO Box 569, London SE1 9NH. The price inclusive of postage is given in parenthesis at the end of each reference.

**Parliamentary publications**

**Command 6249.** European Communities No. 136 (1975). Agreement between the European Community and the State of Israel (with Final Act). Brussels, May 11 1975. (The Agreement was made under Article 113 of the Treaty Establishing the European Economic Community and entered into force on 1 July 1975). [0 10 162490 5]. 178 pp. £2.70 (£2.88).

**Command 6252.** European Communities No. 138 (1975). Treaty amending certain Financial Provisions of the Treaties establishing the European Communities and of the Treaty establishing a Single Council and a Single Commission of the European Communities. Brussels, 22 July 1975. (The Treaty has not been ratified by the United Kingdom). [0 10 162520 0]. 27 pp. 40p (46½p).

**Command 6253.** European Communities No. 139 (1975). Treaty amending certain Provisions of the Protocol on the Statute of the European Investment Bank. Brussels, 10 July 1975. (The Treaty has not been ratified by the United Kingdom.) [0 10 162530 8]. 4 pp. 12p (18½p).

**Command 6265.** European Communities No. 137 (1975). Agreement between the Member States of the European Coal and Steel Community, of the one part, and the State of Israel, of the other part. Brussels, 11 May 1975. (The Agreement has not been approved by the United Kingdom.) [0 10 162650 9]. 20 pp. 30p (36½p).

**Command 6288.** European Communities No. 141 (1975). Interim Agreement between the European Economic Community and Greece consequent on the Accession of New Member States to the Community. Brussels, 28 April 1975. (The Agreement was made under Article 113 of the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community and entered into force on 1 July 1975.) [0 10 162880 3]. 8 pp. 20p (26½p).

**Command 6289.** European Communities No. 142 (1975). Additional Protocol to the Agreement establishing an Association between the European Economic Community and Greece consequent on the Accession of New Member States to the Community. Brussels, 28 April 1975. (The Additional Protocol is not in force.) [0 10 162890 0]. 8 pp. 20p (26½p).

**Command 6325.** European Communities No. 147 (1975). Agreements in the form of Exchange of letters relating to Articles 2 and 3 of Protocol 8 to the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Portuguese Republic. Brussels, 19 February 1975. [0 10 163250 9]. 8 pp. 20p (26½p).

**Command 6331.** European Communities No. 151 (1975). Protocol on the Accession of Greece to the convention on the Provision of Mutual Assistance by their Customs Authorities. Concluded between the Member States of the European Economic Community (with text of Convention and Additional Protocol). Rome, 7 September 1967. (The Protocol has not been approved by the United Kingdom). [0 10 163310 6]. 20 pp. 30p (36½p).

**Command 6349.** European Communities No. 155 (1975). Developments in the European Communities. April-October 1975. [0 10 163490 0]. 30 pp. 45p (51½p).

**Commission of the European Communities**

The European Community and the Energy Problem. 1975/2. [0 11 935022 x]. 23 pp. 25p (31½p).

The European Community and the Developing Countries (Periodical 1975/1). [0 11 935068 8]. 19 pp. 25p (31½p).

**Supplements of the Bulletin of the European Communities**

Special Supplement. Directory of the Commission of the European Communities. September 1975. [0 11 934998 1]. 68 pp. 60p (76p).

4/75. Proposal for a Council Regulation on the Statute for European Companies. (Amended proposal presented by the Commission to the Council on 13 May 1975, pursuant to the second paragraph of Article 149 of the EEC Treaty.) [0 11 935002 5]. 221 pp. £2.70 (£2.96).

**Statistical Office of the European Communities**

ACP: Yearbook of Foreign Trade Statistics 1975. Statistical Abstract 1968-73. Text and tables completed in March 1975. [0 11 935006 8]. 99 pp. £2.20 (£2.38).

# Official publications of the European Communities – subscription prices 1976 (including postage)

Bulletin of the European Communities, plus Index, £6.25.

Graphs and Notes on the economic situation in the Community, £8.75.

The economic situation in the Community, £11.00.

Report of the results of the business surveys carried out among heads of enterprises in the Community, £3.75.

Pig-irons and steels: basic prices, £48.00.

Vocational training: Information bulletin, £2.75.

The Courier EC – A.C.P. E + F, £2.50.

Energy Statistics, £11.00.

Iron and Steel Bulletin, £18.25.

General Statistics, £15.25.

Foreign Trade: Monthly Statistics, £16.50.

Industrial Statistics, £7.25.

Foreign trade statistics of COMECON countries, £18.25.

Monthly tables of transport statistics, £7.25.

Agricultural Statistics will cease publication at the end of 1975 and will be replaced by:

1 Crop production, £21.50.
2 Monthly statistics of meat production, £24.50.
3 Monthly statistics of the production of milk and milk products, £17.00.
4 Monthly statistics of sales of eggs for hatching, £17.00.
5 Prices of agricultural products sold, £24.50.
6 Prices of agricultural products purchased, £8.75.

Combined subscription comprising 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, £103.50.

Euro-Abstracts: Scientific and Technical Publications and Patents, £12.50.

Transatom Bulletin: Information on translations covering Eastern Nuclear Literature, £15.00.

Reports of cases before the Court, Vol. XXII, £18.50.

Committee Reports of the European Parliament, £6.25.

Debates of the European Parliament, £9.25.

Official Journal of the European Communities, £33.00.

Social Statistics will cease publication at the end of 1975 and will be replaced by single volumes each bearing different titles – **subscriptions can only be accepted for the calendar year.**

**Official Journal of the European Communities**

Subscription rates for 1976 for the period:

| | |
|---|---|
| 1.1.1976 – 31.12.1976 | £33.00 |
| 1.4.1976 – 31.12.1976 | £24.75 |
| 1.7.1976 – 31.12.1976 | £16.50 |
| 1.10.1976 – 31.12.1976 | £8.25 |

Subscriptions can be accepted for the above periods only.

## Catalogues of Government Publications

**Her Majesty's Stationery Office offer their customers a comprehensive service which will enable them to judge whether any other titles in the vast output of Government Publications would help them in their work or leisure. Full information about this service can be obtained by sending a postcard to Publicity Section, Her Majesty's Stationery Office, Room C46, Atlantic House, Holborn Viaduct, London, EC1P 1BN, asking for the CATALOGUE SERVICE LEAFLET.**

# Statistics

## The economy: selected indicators

Series expressed as index numbers and seasonally adjusted except where shown otherwise

| | Gross domestic product (average estimate) | Consumers' expenditure | Fixed capital expenditure | | | Changes in stocks | | | | Balance of payments | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Total | of which: Manufacturing industry | of which: Distributive and service industries | Total | of which: Manufacturing industry | of which: Wholesalers | of which: Retailers | Current balance | Visible balance | Invisible balance |
| | at 1970 prices | | at 1970 prices | | | at 1970 prices | | | | at current prices | | |
| Base of index | 1970 | 1970 | 1970 | 1970 | 1970 | | | | | | | |
| £m in base year | | 31,365 | 9,380 | 2,130 | 2,090 | | | | | | | |
| Series in | | | | | | £ million | | | | £ million | | |
| 1970 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 450 | 325 | 68 | −30 | 735 | −12 | 747 |
| 1971 | 102 | 103 | 102 | 93 | 104 | 70 | −148 | 52 | −10 | 1,048 | 282 | 766 |
| 1972 | 104 | 109 | 104 | 82 | 117 | −5 | −175 | 48 | −11 | 128 | −690 | 818 |
| 1973 | 110 | 114 | 107 | 88 | 125 | 960 | 396 | 102 | 334 | −835 | −2,295 | 1,460 |
| 1974 | 110 | 114 | 105 | 98 | 113 | 553 | 666 | 81 | −68 | −3,668 | −5,234 | 1,566 |
| 1972 3rd qtr. | 104 | 110 | 103 | 79 | 115 | 8 | −35 | 6 | −16 | −89 | −280 | 191 |
| 4th qtr. | 107 | 111 | 105 | 80 | 124 | 19 | 13 | 24 | −10 | −11 | −213 | 202 |
| 1973 1st qtr. | 110 | 115 | 109 | 86 | 130 | 353 | 166 | 37 | 51 | −125 | −329 | 204 |
| 2nd qtr. | 109 | 112 | 104 | 83 | 118 | 274 | 88 | 3 | 185 | −63 | −388 | 325 |
| 3rd qtr. | 110 | 114 | 107 | 92 | 120 | 155 | 46 | 29 | 47 | −217 | −583 | 366 |
| 4th qtr | 109 | 114 | 107 | 89 | 132 | 178 | 98 | 32 | 51 | −430 | −995 | 565 |
| 1974 1st qtr | 106 | 113 | 108 | 97 | 112 | −174 | −31 | 18 | −59 | −846 | −1,272 | 426 |
| 2nd qtr. | 110 | 112 | 100 | 96 | 110 | 274 | 191 | 43 | 27 | −947 | −1,336 | 389 |
| 3rd qtr. | 112 | 114 | 103 | 97 | 119 | 359 | 368 | 3 | −14 | −823 | −1,199 | 376 |
| 4th qtr. | 111 | 116 | 107 | 101 | 113 | 94 | 139 | 17 | −22 | −1,052 | −1,427 | 375 |
| 1975 1st qtr. | 110 | 116 | 106 | 93 | 102 | −172 | −4 | −31 | −57 | −430 | −836 | 406 |
| 2nd qtr. | 107 | 114 | 103 | 87 | 100 | −340 | −112 | −54 | −52 | −397 | −687 | 290 |
| 3rd qtr. | | | | 81 p | 100 p | | −236 p | −25 p | 60 p | −599 | −929 | 330 ** |
| % change last 2 qtrs. on prev. 2 qtrs. | −2.5 | — | −0.8 | −13.9 | −7.2 | | | | | | | |
| on a year earlier | +0.5 | +2.2 | +0.5 | −13.3 | −12.4 | | | | | | | |

| | Industrial production | | Personal expenditure | | Prices and costs (NOT seasonally adjusted) | | | | | Labour (UK) | | | Trade | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Total all industries | Total manufacturing industries | Retail sales | Cars: new registrations | Retail prices | % increase on a year earlier | Wholesale prices: all manufacturing industry: basic materials and fuel used | Wholesale prices: all manufacturing industry: manufactured products: home sales* | Basic hourly wage rates of manual workers (all industries and services) | Unemployed excluding school leavers and adult students: mid-month count | Unemployed excluding school leavers and adult students: % of total employees | Unfilled vacancies for adults: mid-month count | Exports | Imports |
| | | | monthly averages | | | | | | | | | | On a balance of payments basis | |
| Base of index | 1970 | 1970 | 1971 | | Jan. 1974 | | 1970 | 1970 | July 1972 | | | | | |
| £m in base year | | | 15,895 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Series in | | | | thousands | | | | | | thousands | | thousands | £ million at current prices | |
| 1971 | 100.5 | 99.7 | 100.0 | 108.5 | 153.4† | 9.4 | 104.6 | 109.0 | 88.9 | 775.8 | 3.4 | 130.9 | 8,810 | 8,528 |
| 1972 | 102.6 | 102.3 | 105.8 | 138.6 | 164.3† | 7.1 | 109.2 | 114.8 | 101.4 | 855.0 | 3.7 | 147.3 | 9,140 | 9,830 |
| 1973 | 110.2 | 110.9 | 110.7 | 137.3 | 179.4† | 9.2 | 144.5 | 123.2 | 115.6 | 611.0 | 2.6 | 307.0 | 11,771 | 14,066 |
| 1974 | 106.4 | 108.0 | 109.9 | 102.7 | 108.5 | 16.0 | 215.3 | 152.0 | 138.7 | 599.9ø | 2.6ø | 302.6ø | 15,886 | 21,120 |
| 1974 1st qtr. | 104.0 | 106.3 | 109.8 | 103 | 101.4 | 12.9 | 212.5 | 138.3 | 125.0 | 572.9 | 2.5 | 288.6 | 3,490 | 4,762 |
| 2nd qtr. | 107.9 | 109.6 | 107.3 | 104 | 107.5 | 15.8 | 213.7 | 148.9 | 132.3 | 579.4 | 2.5 | 313.0 | 3,996 | 5,332 |
| 3rd qtr. | 108.4 | 109.9 | 111.0 | 109 | 110.2 | 17.0 | 212.9 | 156.1 | 144.0 | 621.2 | 2.7 | 310.1 | 4,231 | 5,430 |
| 4th qtr. | 105.3 | 106.1 | 111.6 | 96 | 115.1 | 18.2 | 222.1 | 164.9 | 153.5 | .. | .. | .. | 4,169 | 5,596 |
| 1975 1st qtr. | 104.4 | 105.7 | 111.5 | 106 | 122.0 | 20.3 | 220.9 | 176.0 | 163.6 | 733.3 | 3.2 | .. | 4,532 | 5,368 |
| 2nd qtr. | 100.1 | 100.2 | 108.7 | 91 | 133.6 | 24.3 | 225.6 | 186.3 | 176.3 | 849.7 | 3.7 | 159.8 | 4,461 | 5,148 |
| 3rd qtr. | 99.6 | 99.6 | 105.3 | 104 | 139.4 | 26.6 | 239.2 p | 193.4 p | 185.4 | 1008.5 | 4.3 | 135.2 | 4,651 p | 5,583 p |
| 1974 Nov. | 105.8 | 106.9 | 112.8 | 98 | 115.2 | 18.3 | 223.8 | 164.8 | 153.9 | 643.5 | 2.8 | 279.8 | 1,338 | 1,920 |
| Dec. | 103.8 | 104.9 | 110.8 | 87 | 116.9 | 19.1 | 222.5 | 167.6 | 158.0 | .. | .. | .. | 1,450 | 1,834 |
| 1975 Jan. | 105.1 | 107.2 | 113.0 | 109 | 119.9 | 19.9 | 222.1 | 173.0 | 159.8 | 709.0e | 3.0 e | .. | 1,509 | 1,918 |
| Feb. | 105.0 | 106.6 | 112.3 | 113 | 121.9 | 19.9 | 218.8 | 175.9 | 162.0 | 736.7 | 3.2 | 196.3 | 1,479 | 1,806 |
| Mar. | 103.2 | 103.3 | 109.4 | 97 | 124.3 | 21.2 | 221.9 | 179.2 | 169.0 | 754.1 | 3.2 | 189.7 | 1,544 | 1,645 |
| Apr. | 101.5 | 101.7 | 120.2 | 89 | 129.1 | 21.7 | 222.9 | 182.5 | 170.1 | 794.2 | 3.4 | 176.5 | 1,365 | 1,726 |
| May | 99.5 | 99.5 | 102.5 | 90 | 134.5 | 25.0 | 226.2 | 187.3 | 176.4 | 853.5 | 3.7 | 158.6 | 1,612 | 1,693 |
| June | 99.5 | 99.6 | 104.5 | 95 | 137.1 | 26.1 | 227.7 | 189.0 | 182.5 | 901.4 | 3.9 | 144.4 | 1,484 | 1,729 |
| July | 100.1 | 100.2 | 104.7 | 89 | 138.5 | 26.3 | 233.2 | 191.7 | 184.7 | 976.5 | 4.2 | 131.6 | 1,563 | 1,916 |
| Aug. | 99.0 | 99.0 | 104.9 | 92 | 139.3 | 26.9 | 241.4 | 193.5 | 185.5 | 1008.8 | 4.3 | 136.7 | 1,487 | 1,858 |
| Sept. | 99.8 | 99.6 | 106.0 | 130 | 140.5 | 26.6 | 243.2 | 194.9 | 185.9 | 1040.1 | 4.5 | 137.4 | 1,583 | 1,788 |
| Oct. | | | 105.3 | 84 | 142.5 | 25.9 | 251.6 p | 197.0 p | 187.0 | 1088.5 | 4.7 | 126.2 | 1,740 p | 1,946 p |
| Nov. | | | | 82 | | | 255.8 p | 198.6 p | | 1125.3 | 4.8 | 117.3 | | |
| % change latest 3 months on prev. 3 months | −0.5 | −0.6 | +1.4 | +6.9 | +3.0 | | +6.9 | +2.8 | +2.7 | +12.7 | | −7.7 | +6†† | +7†† |
| on a year earlier | −8.1 | −9.4 | −5.6 | −7.4 | +26.4 | | +14.3 | +21.6 | +26.7 | −70.1 | | −57.1 | +13 | +2½ |

p Provisional * After April 1973, affected by changes due to VAT † Base of index Jan. 1962 = 100
ø Average of 11 months e Figure is estimate ** Figure is projection †† Average latest 3 months on average previous 5 months

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**Symbols used in all statistical tables**

| | |
|---|---|
| .. not available | r revised |
| — nil or less than half | * five week period |
| the final digit shown | # fifty-three week period |
| p provisional | |

# Cinema admissions and takings in August

During August, counted as a four week period, the weekly average of admissions to cinemas in Great Britain was 2.58 million and the weekly average of gross box office takings was £1.58 million. The comparable figures for August 1974 were 3.21 and £1.53 million, respectively.

# Registrations of British, Community and foreign films

The following are details of films registered by the Department of Trade under the Films Acts 1960 to 1970, as amended by the European Communities Act 1972, during the week ended Friday, 5 December 1975.
BR/E indicates that the film is a British quota film, EC that the film is a quota film. The date which forms part of the registration number of each is the date on which quota life of the film expires.

| Title of film | Registered no. | Playing time minutes | Date of registration | Registered in the name of | Maker's name |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | BRITISH | | |
| Location North Sea | BR/E 38336/6/12/80 | 15 | 1 December | Fox-Rank Distributors Ltd. | Pelican Films |
| Carry On Behind | BR/E 38337/6/12/80 | 90 | 1 December | Fox-Rank Distributors Ltd. | Peter Rogers Productions Ltd. and GT Productions Ltd. |
| Intimate Reflections | BR/E 38365/6/12/80 | 86 | 4 December | Focus Film Distributors Ltd. | Kendon Films Ltd. |
| Movietone News 2426 | BR/E 38141/6/12/80 | 8 | 5 December | British Movietonews Ltd. | British Movietonews Ltd. |
| | | | COMMUNITY | | |
| The Last Shot | EC 38335/6/12/80 | 105 | 1 December | Ranworth Film Services Ltd. | Lira Films and Paris Cannes Productions, Paris, and Seven Film, Rome |
| | | | FOREIGN | | |
| The Loves Of Liszt | F 38333 | 153 | 1 December | Gala Film Distributors Ltd. | Mafilm, Budapest and Lenfilm, Leningrad |
| Rooster Cogburn | F 38334 | 108 | 1 December | Cinema International Corporation (UK) | Universal Pictures, California |
| Dog Day Afternoon | F 38364 | 124 | 4 December | Columbia-Warner Distributors Ltd. | Warner Brothers Inc., California |

# Wholesale price indices in November

**Output prices**

Higher prices for bottled milk were mainly responsible for an increase of 1¾ per cent to 208.0 (1970 = 100) in the provisional price index for the products of the food manufacturing industries in November. Animal feedingstuffs also contributed to this but in line with the recent trend for these products.

The rate of increase of the price index for manufactured products is continuing to fall. The provisional price index rose by ¾ per cent to 198.6 in November. The last three months, September to November, taken together show a rise of 2¾ per cent.

There was a similar increase of ¾ per cent in the provisional price index for manufactured goods other than food, drink and tobacco. No individual sector made a significant contribution to this, which is the smallest monthly increase since the second quarter of 1973.

**Input prices**

The increased cost of milk for liquid consumption was also largely responsible for a rise of 4¾ per cent in the provisional index of materials and fuel purchased by the food manufacturing industry in November. Higher prices for bacon pigs and home produced meat also made a significant contribution. Lower prices for imported cereals, vegetable oils and oilseeds more than offset the effect of increased prices for imported pea-beans and contributed to an overall fall in prices of imported materials for the food industry.

Small price rises for several imported materials and semi-manufactured goods were responsible for the increase, on provisional figures, of ½ per cent in the index for materials purchased by manufacturing industry, other than the food, drink and tobacco industries. Little of this was associated with changes in the value of the pound against other world currencies.

The November index for coal, gas and electricity rose by ½ per cent, largely because some of the effects of the higher gas prices from early October carried over into November.

The price index for materials and fuel purchased by all manufacturing industry rose by 1¾ per cent to 255.8 in November. This follows a revision to the October index caused by a new estimate for the index of materials purchased by the drink industries.

1970 = 100

| | Sept. | Oct. p | Nov. p |
|---|---|---|---|
| OUTPUT PRICES (Home Sales) | | | |
| All manufactured products | 194.9 | 197.0 | 198.6 |
| Products of manufacturing industry, other than food, drink and tobacco industries | 201.0 | 203.3 | 204.7 |
| Products of the food manufacturing industries | 202.1 | 204.3 | 208.0 |
| PRICES OF MATERIALS AND FUEL PURCHASED | | | |
| By manufacturing industry | 243.2 | 251.6 | 255.8 |
| Materials | 247.7 | 256.5 | 261.1 |
| Coal, gas and electricity | 200.3 | 204.4 | 205.3 |
| By manufacturing industry other than food, drink and tobacco industries | 257.1 | 267.7 | 269.0 |
| Materials | 265.2 | 276.7 | 278.1 |
| By food manufacturing industries | 213.6 | 217.2 | 227.4 |

p = provisional.

The full version of this article on wholesale prices will appear later.

# Provisional estimates of vehicle production and new car registrations in November

Tables 1 and 2 show United Kingdom vehicle production as estimated from provisional returns supplied by the major manufacturers. Car production in the four weeks ending 22 November was 114,000 units, a weekly rate of 28,500 which was 19 per cent below the level of output in November 1974.

**TABLE 1 Estimated UK production in November 1975**

Thousands

| | Cars | | Commercial vehicles | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Month | Weekly average | Month | Weekly average |
| Estimated output: | | | | |
| 1975 (4 weeks ended 22.11.75) | 114.0 | 28.5 | 30.8 | 7.7 |
| 1974 (4 weeks ended 23.11.74) | 140.4 | 35.1 | 38.5 | 9.6 |
| Percentage change | | −19 | | −20 |

Commercial vehicle output of 30,800 units (7,700 per week) was 20 per cent below the level of production in November 1974. Production of cars in the first eleven months of 1975 is estimated to have been 18 per cent below that in the corresponding period of 1974, while production of commercial vehicles has fallen by 4 per cent on the same comparison.

In seasonally adjusted terms, November car output of 115,000 units was 10 per cent below the average monthly output in 1974. Production of commercial vehicles at 28,600 units was 15 per cent below the average monthly output last year.

Table 3 shows provisional estimates of new car registrations. Seasonally adjusted new car registrations in November are provisionally estimated at 82,000. After the exceptionally high September figure new car registrations (seasonally adjusted) returned in October and November to the average June-August level.

**TABLE 2 UK vehicle production: monthly averages (seasonally adjusted)**

Thousands

| | 1974 | | 1975 | | | | | | Average of | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 3rd qtr. | 4th qtr. | 1st qtr. | 2nd qtr. | 3rd qtr. | Sep. | Oct. | Nov. | June-Aug. 1975 | Sept.-Nov. 1975 | % change |
| Cars | 138 | 130 | 119 | 89 | 113 | 116 | 95 | 115 | 105 | 109 | +3 |
| Commercial vehicles | 37.5 | 34.6 | 35.6 | 30.8 | 31.9 | 32.1 | 29.6 | 28.6 | 30.6 | 30.1 | −2 |

**TABLE 3 New car registrations: monthly averages**

Thousands

| | 1974 | | 1975 | | | | | | Average of | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 3rd qtr. | 4th qtr. | 1st qtr. | 2nd qtr. | 3rd qtr. | Sep. | Oct. | Nov. | June-Aug. 1975 | Sept.-Nov. 1975 | % change |
| Recorded | 110 | 82 | 116 | 96 | 108 | 116 | 78 | 75 | | | |
| Seasonally adjusted | 109 | 96 | 106 | 91 | 104 | 130 | 84 | 82 | 84 | 98 | +18 |

# Survey of company liquidity: results for the third quarter of 1975

There was a sharp rise in the liquidity of companies in the survey in the third quarter of 1975, the third quarter in succession in which there has been a rise. Tables 1 and 2 show, on a seasonally adjusted basis, that total current assets increased by £217 million in the third quarter and total current liabilities fell by £183 million, giving an increase in net current assets (total current assets minus total current liabilities) of £400 million. This increase follows a net increase of £267 million in the second quarter and a net increase of £367 million in the first. Much of the net increase in the early part of the year can be associated with the tax relief for increases in stock valuations. Since the beginning of the year there have also been a substantial number of capital issues, which have raised additional funds.

Chart 1, which illustrates changes in net current assets of the survey companies and in their liquidity ratio (total current assets as a percentage of total current liabilities), after seasonal adjustment, shows the sharp rise in liquidity since the beginning of 1975, following the decline that began early in 1973 and which continued steeply throughout 1974. On the basis of the liquidity ratio (which allows for inflation since its numerator and denominator tend to be affected in the same proportion) the chart suggests that by the end of 1974 the survey companies' liquidity had fallen to a level similar to that in 1970-71, the previous time of great liquidity pressure. However, by the end of the third quarter of 1975 the liquidity ratio had recovered to about the level of early 1974. It must be kept in mind, however, that both these broad indicators have serious limitations. They do not summarise the whole financial position of the companies but only the position on the selected current assets and liabilities covered by the survey, and the companies have widely differing financial policies.

Tables 1 and 2 show that, on an unadjusted basis, the companies' total current asssets rose by £293 million and their total current liabilities fell by £246 million during the third quarter of 1975, giving an overall increase in net current assets of £540 million. As usual, these changes summarise widely differing movements in individual companies.

**Manufacturing and non-manufacturing companies**

The companies engaged mainly in manufacturing accounted for most of the unadjusted increase in net current assets in the third quarter. Table 3 shows that their total current assets rose by £122 million and that their total current liabilities fell by £255 million, giving a net increase of £377 million. For the mainly non-manufacturing companies, the table shows that total current assets rose by £171 million and that their total current liabilities also rose, by £9 million, giving a net increase of £162 million.

Charts 2 and 3 show, for the manufacturing companies, that total current assets continued the changes evident since the beginning of the year and that total current liabilities have fallen since the beginning of the year. For the non-manufacturing companies, on the other hand, the charts show little change in total current assets or total current liabilities since the beginning of the year.

**TABLE 1 Holdings of current assets and liabilities by survey companies (1) Amounts outstanding at end of period**

£ million

| | 1973 | | | 1974 | | | | 1975 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 3rd qtr. | 4th qtr. | 4th qtr. | 1st qtr. | 2nd qtr. | 3rd qtr. | 4th qtr. | 4th qtr. | 1st qtr. | 2nd qtr. | 3rd qtr. |
| *Number of companies* (2) | 221 | 221 | 216 | 216 | 216 | 216 | 216 | 214 | 214 | 214 | 214 |
| *Unadjusted* | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Current assets: | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Deposits with banks in the UK: | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Deposit banks | 353 | 462 | 462 | 427 | 410 | 535 | 534 | 536 | 540 | 633 | 610 |
| Other banks (3) | 981 | 919 | 915 | 844 | 1,027 | 911 | 936 | 936 | 1,095 | 989 | 1,266 |
| Deposits with finance houses (3) | 189 | 164 | 164 | 111 | 108 | 81 | 64 | 64 | 59 | 78 | 77 |
| Deposits with building societies | 4 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 7 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 4 | 3 |
| Negotiable certificates of deposit (sterling and dollar) | 276 | 253 | 253 | 246 | 182 | 132 | 109 | 109 | 97 | 107 | 75 |
| British Government securities | 106 | 122 | 122 | 121 | 106 | 87 | 83 | 83 | 77 | 146 | 138 |
| Local authority bills and temporary money | 230 | 293 | 293 | 292 | 273 | 235 | 173 | 173 | 159 | 165 | 190 |
| Local authority mortgages and loans | 47 | 39 | 39 | 36 | 55 | 53 | 54 | 54 | 59 | 50 | 48 |
| Tax reserve certificates (4) / Other current assets (5) | 19 | 19 | 19 | 18 | 19 | 29 | 26 | 26 | 20 | 27 | 86 |
| Total current assets (6) | 2,206 | 2,277 | 2,273 | 2,101 | 2,187 | 2,069 | 1,982 | 1,984 | 2,122 | 2,200 | 2,493 |
| Current liabilities: | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Advances and loans from banks and other financial institutions in the UK: | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Deposit banks (7) | 1,423 | 1,545 | 1,525 | 1,881 | 2,069 | 2,235 | 2,278 | 2,143 | 2,176 | 1,896 | 1,634 |
| Other banks (7) | 967 | 1,148 | 1,137 | 1,338 | 1,712 | 1,889 | 2,044 | 1,760 | 1,858 | 1,825 | 1,801 |
| Other financial institutions (8) | 97 | 79 | 79 | 73 | 94 | 105 | 116 | 116 | 100 | 100 | 138 |
| Total current liabilities (6) | 2,486 | 2,771 | 2,741 | 3,292 | 3,874 | 4,229 | 4,438 | 4,020 | 4,134 | 3,820 | 3,574 |
| Net current assets | −280 | −495 | −468 | −1,191 | −1,688 | −2,160 | −2,456 | −2,036 | −2,022 | −1,620 | −1,081 |
| Liquidity ratio (per cent) (9) | 89 | 82 | 83 | 64 | 56 | 49 | 45 | 49 | 51 | 58 | 70 |
| *Seasonally adjusted* | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total current assets | 2,184 | 2,204 | 2,200 | 2,179 | 2,209 | 2,036 | 1,930 | 1,932 | 2,184 | 2,227 | 2,444 |
| Total current liabilities | 2,504 | 2,863 | 2,832 | 3,193 | 3,843 | 4,267 | 4,561 | 4,132 | 4,017 | 3,793 | 3,610 |
| Net current assets | −320 | −659 | −632 | −1,014 | −1,634 | −2,231 | −2,631 | −2,200 | −1,833 | −1,566 | −1,166 |
| Liquidity ratio (per cent) (9) | 87 | 77 | 78 | 68 | 57 | 48 | 42 | 47 | 54 | 59 | 68 |

Notes:

(1) Companies in the Department of Industry's survey of company liquidity.

(2) The figures are for the number of companies that completed returns for the preceding fourth quarter. Estimates are included until the end of the next fourth quarter for any of these companies that ceased to reply during the year. There is a break in coverage at the end of 1973 and 1974; two sets of figures are given for the fourth quarters so that the effect of losing some companies can be seen. The two sets of figures for the fourth quarter of 1974 show, in addition, the effect of the change described in note 7.

(3) In January 1972 five major finance houses were granted the status of banks and reclassified as 'other banks'. Not all the survey companies took account of this change. It is estimated that deposits with finance houses are overstated by between £25 million and £50 million in 1973 and that deposits with 'other banks' are understated by the same amount.

(4) Tax reserve certificates were not issued to companies after December 1971. The holdings of the few companies that reported holdings of these certificates during 1973 are included with other current assets.

(5) Other current assets comprise holdings of notes and coin, Treasury bills, tax reserve certificates (during 1973 only) and, from second quarter 1973, tax deposit accounts.

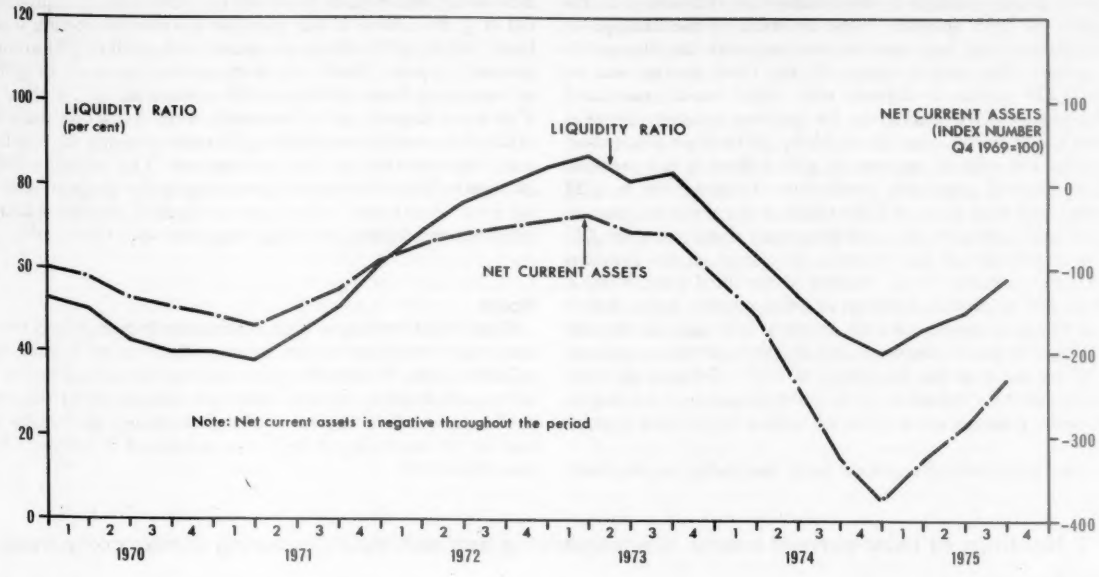
(6) Components are rounded independently of the totals.

(7) From the first quarter of 1975, including only advances and loans with an initial loan term of not more than 12 months. The two sets of figures for the fourth quarter of 1974 show the effect of this change in addition to the effect of losing two companies at the end of 1974.

(8) Including only advances and loans with an initial loan term of not more than 12 months.

(9) Total current assets as a percentage of total current liabilities.

## CHART 1 Net current assets and liquidity ratio of survey companies seasonally adjusted




## TABLE 2 Changes in holdings of current assets and liabilities of survey companies (1)

£ million

| | 1970 | 1971 | 1972 | 1973 | 1974 | 1973 4th qtr. | 1974 1st qtr. | 1974 2nd qtr. | 1974 3rd qtr. | 1974 4th qtr. | 1975 1st qtr. | 1975 2nd qtr. | 1975 3rd qtr. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Unadjusted* | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Current assets: | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Deposits with banks in the UK: | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Deposit banks | 2 | 49 | 116 | 172 | 72 | 109 | −35 | −17 | 125 | −1 | 4 | 93 | −23 |
| Other banks (3) | −40 | 91 | 239 | 258 | 21 | −62 | −71 | 182 | −116 | 26 | 159 | −106 | 277 |
| Deposits with finance houses (3) | 19 | 52 | −21 | −17 | −101 | −24 | −53 | −3 | −28 | −17 | −4 | 19 | −2 |
| Deposits with building societies | — | 2 | −2 | 2 | −1 | — | 1 | 2 | — | −3 | 2 | −3 | — |
| Negotiable certificates of deposit (sterling and dollar) | — | 121 | 231 | −47 | −144 | −23 | −7 | −64 | −49 | −24 | −12 | 10 | −33 |
| British Government securities | −22 | −13 | 16 | 39 | −39 | 16 | −1 | −16 | −19 | −4 | −6 | 69 | −7 |
| Local authority bills and temporary money | −32 | 61 | 55 | 121 | −120 | 62 | −1 | −19 | −38 | −62 | −14 | 6 | 25 |
| Local authority mortgages and loans | −14 | — | 14 | −10 | 15 | −8 | −3 | 19 | −2 | 1 | 5 | −9 | −1 |
| Tax reserve certificates (4) | 2 | 2 | −10 | −22 | 6 | — | −2 | 2 | 9 | −3 | −6 | 8 | 58 |
| Other current assets (5) | 4 | −3 | 5 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total current assets (6) | −82 | 362 | 645 | 494 | −290 | 70 | −171 | 86 | −117 | −87 | 128 | 88 | 293 |
| Current liabilities: | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Advances and loans from banks and other financial institutions in the UK: | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Deposit banks (7) | 64 | −247 | 162 | 610 | 753 | 122 | 356 | 188 | 167 | 43 | 33 | −280 | −261 |
| Other banks (7) | 247 | 115 | 20 | 306 | 907 | 181 | 201 | 374 | 177 | 155 | 98 | −34 | −23 |
| Other financial institutions (8) | 60 | −21 | 27 | 9 | 37 | −18 | −6 | 21 | 11 | 11 | −16 | — | 38 |
| Total current liabilities (6) | 371 | −152 | 209 | 925 | 1,697 | 285 | 551 | 583 | 355 | 209 | 114 | −314 | −246 |
| Net current assets | −453 | 514 | 436 | −430 | −1,987 | −214 | −723 | −497 | −472 | −296 | 14 | 402 | 540 |
| *Seasonally adjusted* | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total current assets | | | | | | 20 | −21 | 30 | −173 | −106 | 252 | 43 | 217 |
| Total current liabilities | | | | | | 359 | 361 | 650 | 424 | 294 | −115 | −224 | −183 |
| Net current assets | | | | | | −339 | −382 | −620 | −597 | −400 | 367 | 267 | 400 |

Notes:
See notes (1) and (3) to (8) of Table 1.

## TABLE 3 Holdings of current assets and liabilities by manufacturing and non-manufacturing survey companies (1) Amounts outstanding at end of period

£ million

| | 1973 3rd qtr. | 1973 4th qtr. | 1974 4th qtr. | 1974 1st qtr. | 1974 2nd qtr. | 1974 3rd qrt. | 1974 4th qtr. | 1975 4th qtr. | 1975 1st qtr. | 1975 2nd qtr. | 1975 3rd qtr. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| MANUFACTURING COMPANIES | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Number of companies (2) | 150 | 150 | 147 | 147 | 147 | 147 | 147 | 145 | 145 | 145 | 145 |
| Total current assets | 1,268 | 1,226 | 1,222 | 1,134 | 887 | 798 | 749 | 748 | 818 | 1,007 | 1,129 |
| Total current liabilities | 1,474 | 1,683 | 1,667 | 2,121 | 2,405 | 2,758 | 2,894 | 2,716 | 2,749 | 2,501 | 2,246 |
| Net current assets | −207 | −457 | −445 | −987 | −1,518 | −1,960 | −2,145 | −1,968 | −1,931 | −1,494 | −1,117 |
| Liquidity ratio (per cent) (9) | 86 | 73 | 73 | 53 | 37 | 29 | 26 | 28 | 30 | 40 | 50 |
| NON-MANUFACTURING COMPANIES | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Number of companies | 71 | 71 | 69 | 69 | 69 | 69 | 69 | 69 | 69 | 69 | 69 |
| Total current assets | 938 | 1,051 | 1,051 | 967 | 1,300 | 1,271 | 1,233 | 1,236 | 1,294 | 1,193 | 1,364 |
| Total current liabilities | 1,012 | 1,088 | 1,074 | 1,171 | 1,469 | 1,471 | 1,544 | 1,303 | 1,385 | 1,319 | 1,328 |
| Net current assets | −74 | −38 | −23 | −203 | −170 | −200 | −311 | −68 | −91 | −126 | 36 |
| Liquidity ratio (per cent) (9) | 93 | 97 | 98 | 83 | 88 | 86 | 80 | 95 | 93 | 90 | 103 |

Notes:
See notes (1), (2) and (9) to Table 1.

**Changes in the composition of holdings**

On the assets side, changes in the composition of holdings in the third quarter of 1975 generally were reversals of the changes in the second quarter and had more in common with the changes in the first quarter. The largest change in the third quarter was an increase of £277 million in deposits with 'other banks', compared with a decrease of £106 million in the previous quarter. Deposits with deposit banks, on the other hand, fell by £23 million in the third quarter, compared with an increase of £93 million in the previous quarter. Holdings of negotiable certificates of deposit fell by £33 million, compared with a rise of £10 million in the previous quarter. Holdings of local authority bills and temporary money rose by £25 million, compared with a rise of only £6 million in the previous quarter. A striking feature of the changes in the third quarter was a sharp rise of £58 million in holdings of other current assets, which comprise holdings of notes and coin, treasury bills and tax deposit accounts. This is by far the largest change in other current assets since the start of the series at the beginning of 1970. Holdings of other current assets rose by £8 million in the previous quarter; the largest change in earlier quarters was a rise of £9 million in the third quarter of 1974.

On the liabilities side, changes in bank borrowing in the third quarter were very similar to the changes in the previous quarter. Borrowing from deposit banks fell by £261 million, compared with a fall of £280 million in the previous quarter; borrowing from 'other banks' fell by £23 million, compared with a fall of £34 million in the previous quarter. There was a sharp rise, however, of £38 million in borrowing from other financial institutions in the third quarter. This is the largest rise in borrowing from this source since the start of the series and follows a fall of £16 million during the first half of the year, concentrated in the first quarter. The overall effect of the changes in liabilities was to increase again the proportion of borrowing from 'other banks', which now stands at 50 per cent of total current liabilities, the highest percentage since the start of the series.

**Notes**

Over 200 of the largest United Kingdom industrial and commercial companies contribute to this survey, which covers certain assets and liabilities in the United Kingdom that can be realised or that are due to be paid, formally at least, within 12 months. An article describing the background to the survey, and reviewing the results since its start at the beginning of 1970, was published in *Economic Trends* for November 1974.

**CHART 2 Holdings of total current assets. Manufacturing and non-manufacturing survey companies**

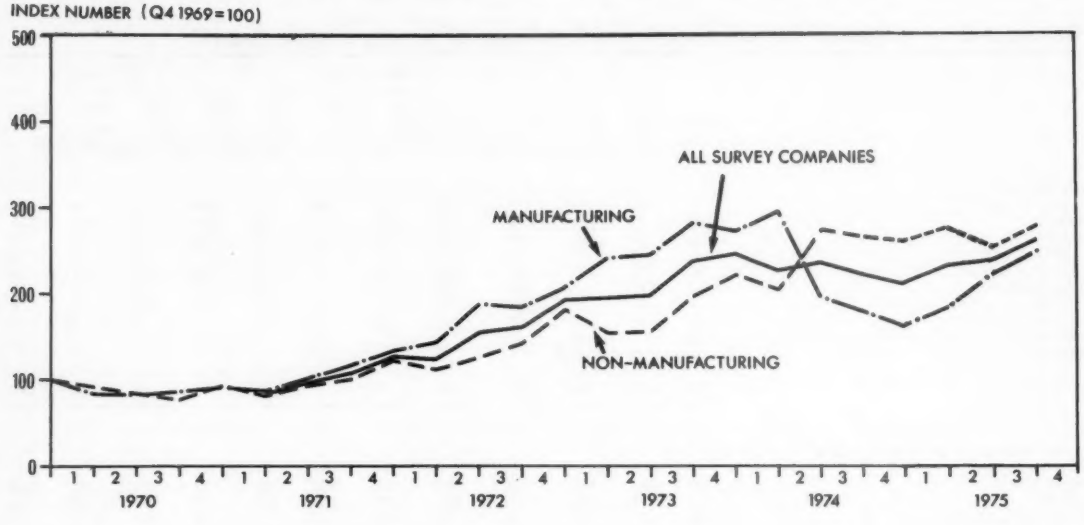
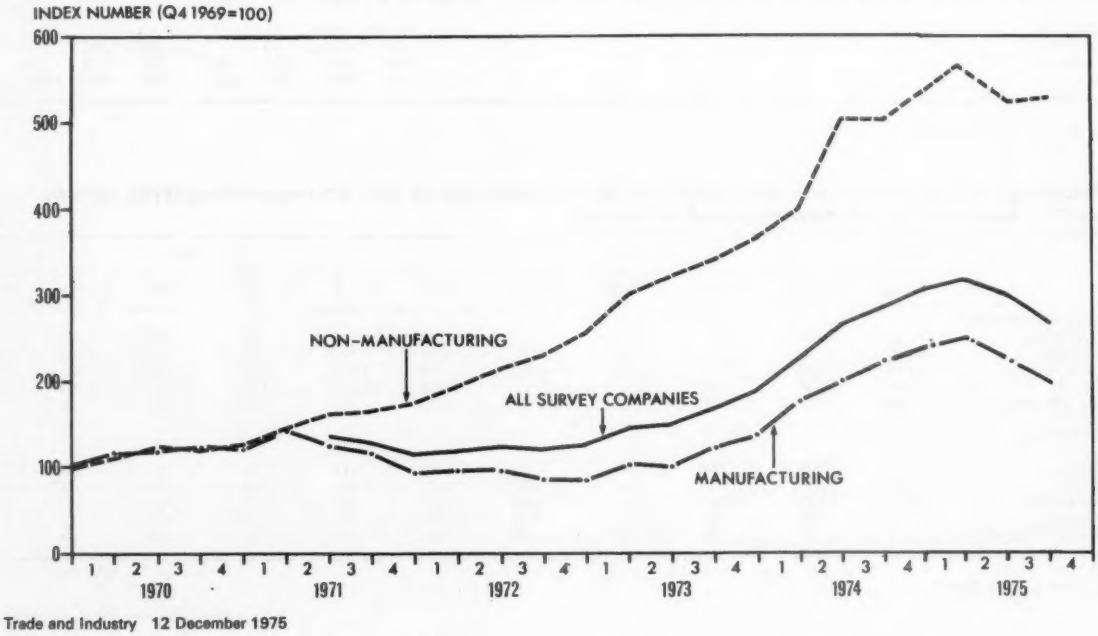



**CHART 3 Holdings of total current liabilities. Manufacturing and non-manufacturing survey companies**



The companies taking part are not a representative sample of industrial and commercial companies. Not all large companies are included and no small ones.

Another important limitation is that the results can give only part of the complete financial picture that would be given by the full sources and uses of funds account. This applies, in particular, to the two summary measures of liquidity, net current assets and the liquidity ratio, as the article in *Economic Trends* explains. Furthermore, these measures, and the results as a whole, are aggregates for the survey group and they mask wide variation in the financial positions of individual companies.

During the survey some companies have ceased to reply. The results are therefore based on a different number of companies each quarter. In the tables with this article, estimates are included until the end of the year for holdings of companies that ceased to reply during the year, except for companies that ceased to reply because they had amalgamated with other companies in the survey. Two sets of figures are given for the fourth quarters to show the effect of losing some companies during 1973 and 1974. For the charts, however, the results have been adjusted to make them comparable over the whole period of the survey.

The two sets of figures given for the fourth quarter of 1974 also embody an additional change. At the beginning of 1975, the definition of current liabilities was clarified and companies were asked to exclude all advances and loans with an initial loan term of over 12 months.

## Average earnings top £3,000 a year – details in 'DE Gazette'

In April 1975 average gross earnings of all full-time men in this country were £60.80 a week. This is among the key results for full-time workers from the New Earnings Survey 1975, published in the current issue of *Department of Employment Gazette* (HMSO 90p).

The average increase in weekly earnings since the 1974 survey was £13.80, or 28.4 per cent for men. In manual occupations, average earnings were £55.70 a week—passing £50 a week for the first time; they increased on average by £12.80 (29.2 per cent). In non-manual occupations the average was £68.40, the average increase being £15.40 (27.5 per cent).

The Survey shows that 80 per cent of the male working population earned between £37.50 and £88.20 a week; almost 64 per cent earned more than £50, including nearly 6 per cent who earned more than £100; 2.3 per cent of men earned less than £30 a week; 14.1 per cent less than £40. The figures relate to men aged 21 and over whose pay was not affected by absence.

Information was obtained about the earnings and hours of 157,000 workers in one pay period in April 1975. This provides an estimate for that period of a full-time workforce of 10.3 million men aged 21 and over and 4.7 million women aged 18 and over, whose pay was not affected by absence.

Of the employees in the sample, 28,000 were also in the April 1974 survey, and these constitute the 'matched sample' for comparison, for which results are quoted in some of the tables.

The 1975 survey is the seventh in the annual series of New Earnings Surveys. The key results for particular industries, occupations, age-groups and regions, as well as for the major collective agreements and wages councils, are available in the *DE Gazette*.

The results include average earnings and how they are made up by overtime pay, payments-by-results and other incentive payments and shift and similar premium payments. Also included are average hourly earnings and hours worked. Other tables show the range of earnings, their distribution, and the increases in average earnings between April 1974 and April 1975.

The matched samples show that, excluding the effect of overtime, weekly earnings of manual men rose by 31.9 per cent over the year. Those for manual women went up by 37.7 per cent. For non-manual men earnings increased by 27.8 per cent, for non-manual women by 38.8 per cent. This confirms the trend in recent years for women's earnings to rise comparatively faster than men's. In the two years to April 1975 this was particularly marked. This reflects the progress made towards equal pay.

Average overtime earnings for women were 60 pence compared with men's £5.60. Average overtime hours for men were four in an average week of 43; women worked an average of 37.4 hours of which half an hour was overtime.

Ten per cent of women earned less than £23 a week and 90 per cent earned less than £56.20; nearly 15 per cent earned more than £50 a week.

The analyses of earnings by age group show that among manual males, earnings rise on average with age up to between 30 and 40 and then fall. Among non-manual males, the average increases up to between the ages of 40 and 50. Average earnings of females are highest between 25 and 30 in manual occupations, but the variation between age group is considerably less than amongst the men. For non-manual females earnings were on average £43 in each age group from 30 to 60.

Differences in average earnings in the regions are relatively small when compared with variations between occupations and age groups. Earnings in the South East had a large effect on the national average. For example, only in that region were average earnings for non-manual men and women above the averages for Great Britain. For manual women also average earnings were highest in the South East.

Amongst manual men average weekly earnings were highest in the North of England. For both manual and non-manual men average weekly earnings were lowest in the South West; for manual women in the East Midlands; and in East Anglia for non-manual women.

The article is intended to provide most of the information of interest to the general reader. For specialists full detailed results are being given in a series of six booklets. The first of these, Part B, covering results for collective agreements and wage boards and councils is already available.* Part A, which will be on sale in December, will include a detailed account of the survey method, all the key results given in the *Gazette* this month and some other general results.†

The *Department of Employment Gazette* is published monthly, price 90p, available from HMSO and Government bookshops in London, Belfast, Edinburgh, Cardiff, Manchester, Birmingham and Bristol or through booksellers. Annual subscription is £12.12 inclusive of postage, and a subscription form is given at the back of each issue of the *Gazette*.

* *New Earnings Survey 1975 Part B*, Analyses by Agreement, HMSO, price 80p.
† *New Earnings Survey 1975 Part A*, Report and Key Results—available soon. HMSO, price 80p.

## 'Economic Progress Report' for December

The December issue of *Economic Progress Report* is now available. The main articles are as follows:

**Industrial strategy.** This article outlines the Government's proposals for developing a long-term industrial strategy which were presented to a meeting of the National Economic Development Council at Chequers on 5 November.

**Public sector borrowing requirement.** This article explains what the borrowing requirement comprises and how it is financed, and shows how Britain compares with some other countries.

**Monthly economic assessment.** The Treasury's latest monthly report on the economic situation was prepared on the basis of data available up to late November 1975.

**Economic indicators.** A full page of charts illustrating some main indicators of the course of the economy 1974–75 and a table containing the most recent figures.

*Economic Progress Report*, prepared by the Treasury Information Division, is published every month. It contains articles on economic subjects, analysing or giving background to Government economic policy, together with the Treasury's assessment of the economic situation and a table and charts of economic indicators.

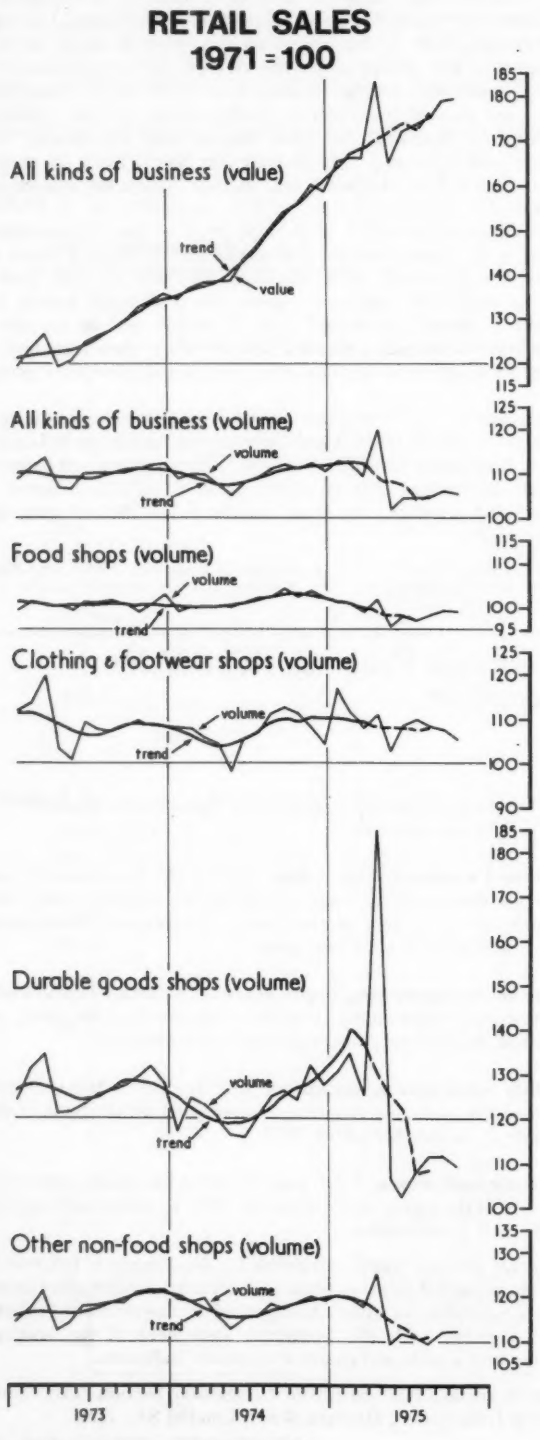
Copies are available free from Circulation Section (H), Central Office of Information, Hercules Road, London SE1 7DU.

# Retail sales in October

**Volume**

The final seasonally adjusted index of the volume of retail sales in October is 105.3, close to the provisional estimate of 105.

The volume of trade has been little changed over the five months June to October, although the level during this period may have been depressed following the high level of sales in April resulting from the Budget. The average level of trade in the most recent three months, August to October, is about 4 per cent below the average of the first seven months of the year.




## TABLE 1 Volume of retail sales seasonally adjusted

Index numbers of sales per week (average 1971 prices) 1971 = 100

| (Sales in 1971 £ million Provisional estimates) | All kinds of business (15,895) | Food shops (6,693) | Non-food shops Total (9,202) | Clothing and footwear shops (2,314) | Durable goods shops (1,801) | Other non-food shops (†) (5,087) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1971 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 1972 | 105.8 | 101.5 | 109.0 | 105 | 115 | 109 |
| 1973 | 110.7 | 101.0 | 117.7 | 109 | 127 | 118 |
| 1974 | 109.9 | 101.8 | 115.9 | 107 | 123 | 117 |
| 1973 1st quarter | 111.8 | 100.8 | 119.8 | 116 | 130 | 118 |
| 2nd quarter | 108.3 | 100.7 | 113.8 | 105 | 122 | 115 |
| 3rd quarter | 110.6 | 101.4 | 117.3 | 108 | 127 | 118 |
| 4th quarter | 112.0 | 101.3 | 119.8 | 109 | 130 | 121 |
| 1974 1st quarter | 109.8 | 100.1 | 116.8 | 107 | 122 | 119 |
| 2nd quarter | 107.3 | 100.8 | 112.2 | 103 | 118 | 114 |
| 3rd quarter | 111.0 | 103.3 | 116.7 | 111 | 124 | 117 |
| 4th quarter | 111.6 | 103.0 | 118.0 | 108 | 128 | 119 |
| 1975 1st quarter | 111.5 | 100.5 | 119.5 | 112 | 130 | 119 |
| 2nd quarter | 108.7 | 98.7 | 116.0 | 108 | 129 | 115 |
| 3rd quarter | 105.3 | 98.4 | 110.2 | 109 | 111 | 111 |
| 1974 August | 111.4 | 102.7 | 117.7 | 111 | 125 | 118 |
| September* | 112.2 | 104.5 | 117.8 | 113 | 126 | 117 |
| October | 111.4 | 102.8 | 117.8 | 111 | 124 | 118 |
| November | 112.8 | 103.9 | 119.3 | 108 | 132 | 120 |
| December* | 110.8 | 102.4 | 117.0 | 104 | 128 | 119 |
| 1975 January* | 113.0 | 101.5 | 121.4 | 117 | 130 | 120 |
| February | 112.3 | 101.0 | 120.6 | 112 | 135 | 120 |
| March* | 109.4 | 99.2 | 116.8 | 108 | 126 | 118 |
| April | 120.2 | 102.1 | 133.3 | 111 | 185 | 125 |
| May | 102.5 | 95.9 | 107.3 | 103 | 106 | 109 |
| June* | 104.5 | 98.1 | 109.1 | 109 | 102 | 112 |
| July | 104.7 | 97.3 | 110.1 | 110 | 108 | 111 |
| August | 104 9 | 98.5 | 109.6 | 108 | 112 | 109 |
| September* | 106.0 | 99.3 | 110.8 | 108 | 112 | 112 |
| October | 105.3 | 99.0 | 110.0 | 105 | 110 | 112 |
| 1975 May.-July | 103.9 | 97.2 | 108.9 | 107 | 105 | 111 |
| Aug.-Oct. | 105.4 | 99.0 | 110.2 | 107 | 111 | 111 |
| *Percentage increase* | 1.4 | 1.9 | 1.2 | — | 5 | — |

## TABLE 2 Value of retail sales seasonally adjusted

Index numbers of value of sales per week (current prices) 1971 = 100

| (Sales in 1971 £ million Provisional estimates) | All kinds of business (15,895) | Food shops (6,693) | Non-food shops Total (9,202) | Clothing and footwear shops (2,314) | Durable goods shops (1,801) | Other non-food shops (†) (5,087) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1971 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 1972 | 112.0 | 108.9 | 114.2 | 112 | 118 | 114 |
| 1973 | 126.9 | 122.8 | 129.9 | 128 | 136 | 128 |
| 1974 | 146.7 | 144.5 | 148.2 | 149 | 143 | 150 |
| 1973 1st quarter | 123.5 | 115.5 | 129.3 | 130 | 138 | 126 |
| 2nd quarter | 122.0 | 119.9 | 123.6 | 121 | 128 | 123 |
| 3rd quarter | 127.8 | 124.5 | 130.2 | 129 | 136 | 129 |
| 4th quarter | 134.2 | 131.3 | 136.3 | 134 | 141 | 136 |
| 1974 1st quarter | 136.8 | 134.6 | 138.4 | 139 | 135 | 139 |
| 2nd quarter | 140.6 | 139.7 | 141.3 | 141 | 135 | 144 |
| 3rd quarter | 150.6 | 147.9 | 152.6 | 157 | 146 | 153 |
| 4th quarter | 158.5 | 155.8 | 160.5 | 159 | 156 | 163 |
| 1975 1st quarter | 166.2 | 161.7 | 169.6 | 173 | 163 | 171 |
| 2nd quarter | 174.0 | 173.1 | 174.6 | 170 | 175 | 177 |
| 3rd quarter | 176.7 | 179.1 | 175.0 | 176 | 159 | 180 |
| 1974 August | 150.5 | 146.7 | 153.3 | 158 | 146 | 154 |
| September* | 154.0 | 151.5 | 155.8 | 162 | 149 | 155 |
| October | 156.4 | 153.2 | 158.8 | 163 | 148 | 161 |
| November | 160.3 | 157.5 | 162.2 | 159 | 161 | 164 |
| December* | 158.8 | 156.5 | 160.4 | 155 | 157 | 164 |
| 1975 January* | 165.8 | 159.4 | 170.5 | 177 | 161 | 171 |
| February | 166.7 | 161.2 | 170.8 | 173 | 168 | 171 |
| March* | 166.3 | 164.3 | 167.7 | 168 | 160 | 171 |
| April | 184.4 | 173.4 | 192.4 | 173 | 232 | 187 |
| May | 165.9 | 169.3 | 163.4 | 163 | 149 | 169 |
| June* | 172.1 | 175.9 | 169.3 | 172 | 150 | 175 |
| July | 174.4 | 175.5 | 173.6 | 176 | 158 | 178 |
| August | 175.8 | 179.1 | 173.3 | 175 | 158 | 178 |
| September* | 179.3 | 182.0 | 177.4 | 176 | 161 | 184 |
| October | 179.6 | 182.4 | 177.6 | 172 | 160 | 186 |
| 1975 May-July | 170.9 | 173.7 | 168.8 | 171 | 152 | 174 |
| Aug.-Oct | 178.3 | 181.2 | 176.2 | 175 | 160 | 183 |
| *Percentage increase* | 4.3 | 4.3 | 4.4 | 2 | 5 | 5 |

(†) Including department stores and mail order businesses.

The indices for all shops, food shops and total non-food shops are shown to the first decimal place to help interpretation, but should not be regarded as necessarily accurate to the final digit. The best indication of the recent trend is normally obtained by comparing the average index for the latest three months with the average for the immediately preceding three months but month to month fluctuations may sometimes make it preferable to average two or four months.

When using the volume figures, it should be borne in mind that, when price increases are large, the various problems associated with revaluation of the value series to constant prices become more acute. Thus, the relative accuracy with which volume changes have been measured is likely to have been reduced in recent periods.

The monthly periods consist of four weeks except those marked • which are of five weeks. The October 1975 sales period was the four weeks from 5 October 1975 to 1 November 1975. The corresponding period in 1974 was the four weeks from 29 September 1974 to 26 October 1974.

The press notice giving the *provisional* estimates of the seasonally adjusted index of the volume of retail sales for November and the increase in the value of sales compared with a year earlier will be published later this month.

Using the same periods for comparison for the main components of the total, sales by clothing and footwear shops fell by 3 per cent, sales by 'other non-food' shops, which include department stores and mail-order businesses, by 4 per cent, and sales by durable goods shops, which were most affected by the Budget measures, by 12 per cent. Sales by food shops were little changed.

### Value

Based on non-seasonally adjusted data, the value of total retail sales in October was 15 per cent higher than in October 1974. In the first 10 months of 1975, the value of sales was 20 per cent above the corresponding period of 1974.

# Hire purchase and other instalment credit business in October

Finance houses and retailers advanced £252 million (seasonally adjusted) in new instalment credit agreements in October, about the same as in September. Finance houses advanced a little less than in September while retailers advanced a little more. In the latest three months August-October, advances by both groups of lenders showed a small increase over the previous three months.

The average weekly value of retailers' instalment credit sales increased in October compared with recent months. In the August-October period on average, sales were 2 per cent up on the previous three months. The different kinds of retail business – durable goods shops, department stores and other instalment credit retailers (mainly mail order businesses) – all showed small increases in sales between the two three-monthly periods.

The debt outstanding to retailers and finance houses continued its downward trend in October. In the latest three months debt outstanding to finance houses decreased by £10 million compared with about £25 million in the previous three months. The debt outstanding to retailers showed small increases in both periods. At the end of October the total debt outstanding to retailers and finance houses was £2,261 million (*not* seasonally adjusted), 1 per cent less than a year earlier.

## TABLE 1 Hire-Purchase and other instalment credit business seasonally adjusted

£ million

| | Total | | Finance Houses† | | Retailers‡ | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | New credit extended | Increase in debt | New credit extended | Increase in debt | New credit extended | Increase in debt |
| 1970 | 1,735 | 84 | 822 | 58 | 913 | 26 |
| 1971 | 2,053 | 240 | 990 | 165 | 1,063 | 75 |
| 1972 | 2,497 | 424 | 1,222 | 296 | 1,275 | 128 |
| 1973 | 2,871 | 438 | 1,453 | 332 | 1,418 | 106 |
| 1974 | 2,517 | −155 | 1,037 | −160 | 1,480 | 5 |
| 1974 1st quarter | 576 | −68 | 232 | −57 | 344 | −11 |
| 2nd quarter | 614 | −43 | 255 | −45 | 359 | 2 |
| 3rd quarter | 648 | −15 | 270 | −28 | 378 | 13 |
| 4th quarter | 679 | −29 | 280 | −30 | 399 | 1 |
| 1975 1st quarter | 723 | −12 | 290 | −16 | 433 | 4 |
| 2nd quarter | 756 | 13 | 301 | −13 | 455 | 26 |
| 3rd quarter | 733 | — | 306 | −11 | 427 | 11 |
| 1975 April | 271 | 26 | 102 | — | 169 | 26 |
| May | 247 | −10 | 102 | −10 | 145 | — |
| June | 238 | −3 | 97 | −3 | 141 | — |
| July | 246 | −8 | 104 | −12 | 142 | 4 |
| August | 235 | −4 | 93 | −10 | 142 | 6 |
| September | 252 | 12 | 109 | 11 | 143 | 1 |
| October | 252 | −16 | 104 | −11 | 148 | −5 |
| 1975 May-July | 731 | −21 | 303 | −25 | 428 | 4 |
| Aug.-Oct. | 739 | −8 | 306 | −10 | 433 | 2 |
| *Percentage increase* | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | |
| Debt outstanding at 31 December 1974 (unadjusted) | — | 2,330 | — | 1,478 | — | 852 |

† Direct business only: ie excluding agreements block discounted with finance houses by retailers.

‡ Durable goods shops, department stores and 'other instalment credit retailers'. For further definitions see footnote to Table 2.

## TABLE 2 Retailers' instalment credit sales seasonally adjusted

Index numbers of value of sales per week (current prices) 1966 = 100

| | Total† | Durable goods shops | Department stores | Other instalment credit retailers‡ |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| H.P. and other instalment credit sales in 1966 § | | | | |
| £ million | (862) | (327) | (46) | (489) |
| 1970 | 121 | 112 | 119 | 128 |
| 1971 | 134 | 138 | 138 | 131 |
| 1972 | 158 | 162 | 157 | 155 |
| 1973 | 176 | 165 | 181 | 183 |
| 1974 | 184 | 132 | 193 | 217 |
| 1974 1st quarter | 171 | 118 | 176 | 207 |
| 2nd quarter | 178 | 126 | 183 | 212 |
| 3rd quarter | 188 | 134 | 208 | 222 |
| 4th quarter | 198 | 152 | 211 | 228 |
| 1975 1st quarter | 211 | 159 | 233 | 244 |
| 2nd quarter | 222 | 172 | 224 | 255 |
| 3rd quarter | 208 | 148 | 229 | 246 |
| 1975 April | 253 | 238 | 242 | 264 |
| May | 211 | 150 | 223 | 250 |
| June• | 206 | 136 | 210 | 252 |
| July | 206 | 151 | 237 | 240 |
| August | 206 | 148 | 207 | 246 |
| September• | 210 | 145 | 240 | 250 |
| October | 216 | 151 | 238 | 257 |
| 1975 May-July av. | 208 | 145 | 222 | 248 |
| Aug.-Oct. av. | 211 | 148 | 229 | 251 |
| *Percentage increase* | 2 | 2 | 3 | 1 |

† Durable goods shops, department stores and 'other instalment credit retailers'.

‡ General stores (other than department stores), general mail order houses and co-operative societies' non-durable goods departments.

§ Excluding sales against checks issued by other organisations.

The monthly periods for retailers consist of four weeks except those marked • which are of five weeks. The period covered by October 1975 sales was the four weeks from 5 October 1975 to 1 November 1975. The corresponding period in 1974 was from 29 September 1974 to 26 October 1974.

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# Production of man-made fibres

In the three months ended October 1975 the volume of production of man-made fibres, seasonally adjusted, was estimated to have been 4 per cent more than in the three months ended in July 1975. Total production by weight of man-made fibres in the period January-October 1975 was 15 per cent lower than in the period January-October 1974; output of continuous filament decreased by 14 per cent and staple fibre decreased by 16 per cent.

**Man-made fibre production** Thousand metric tons

| | Total | Continuous filament (singles) | Staple fibre |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1968 | 539.1 | 241.8 | 297 4 |
| 1969 | 668 2 | 252.5 | 301.5 |
| 1970 | 699.4 | 257 6 | 341.9 |
| 1971 | 613.1 | 276.4 | 336.7 |
| 1972 | 626.5 | 264.0 | 362.5 |
| 1973 | 730.8 | 305.6 | 425.3 |
| 1974 | 627.6 | 271.0 | 356.6 |
| 1974 1st quarter | 174.0 | 69.9 | 104.1 |
| 2nd quarter | 175.1 | 71.7 | 103.4 |
| 3rd quarter | 149.9 | 67.1 | 82.7 |
| 4th quarter | 128.6 | 62.3 | 66.3 |
| 1975 1st quarter | 129.1 | 56.4 | 72.7 |
| 2nd quarter | 148.8 | 61.9 | 86.9 |
| 3rd quarter | 134.1 | 58.5 | 75.7 |
| 1974 July | 55.6 | 22.8 | 32.8 |
| August | 48.5 | 21.3 | 27.2 |
| September | 45.9 | 23.1 | 22 8 |
| October | 50.7 | 25.2 | 25.5 |
| November | 43.1 | 20.7 | 22.4 |
| December | 34.7 | 16.4 | 18.3 |
| 1975 January | 42.1 | 18.2 | 24.0 |
| February | 42.6 | 17.6 | 25.0 |
| March | 44.3 | 20.6 | 23.7 |
| April | 48.1 | 20.0 | 28.1 |
| May | 53.6 | 22.3 | 31.4 |
| June | 47.0 | 19.6 | 27.4 |
| July | 47.0 | 19.3 | 27.7 |
| August | 40.8 | 17.9 | 22.8 |
| September | 46.3 | 21.2 | 25.1 |
| October | 55.1 | 24.0 | 31.1 |

**Index of the volume of production** 1970 = 100

| | |
|---|---|
| 1968 | 87 |
| 1969 | 92 |
| 1970 | 100 |
| 1971 | 106 |
| 1972 | 107 |
| 1973 | 127 |
| 1974 | 111 |

| | Actual | Seasonally adjusted |
|---|---|---|
| 1974 1st quarter | 120 | 118 |
| 2nd quarter | 119 | 116 |
| 3rd quarter | 109 | 116 |
| 4th quarter | 96 | 95 |
| 1975 1st quarter | 92 | 91 |
| 2nd quarter | 104 | 101 |
| 3rd quarter | 96 | 101 |
| 1974 July | 113 | 119 |
| August | 106 | 118 |
| September | 109 | 110 |
| October | 116 | 110 |
| November | 99 | 97 |
| December | 74 | 77 |
| 1975 January | 85 | 83 |
| February | 95 | 97 |
| March | 96 | 93 |
| April | 103 | 102 |
| May | 111 | 109 |
| June | 98 | 93 |
| July | 95 | 100 |
| August | 89 | 99 |
| September | 103 | 105 |
| October | 116 | 110 |

The actual figures allow for differences in the length of calendar months but not for holidays or other seasonal variations. The seasonally adjusted figures are based on the seasonal pattern up to the end of 1974, and may be subject to slight revision when the complete figures for 1975 are incorporated. Tel. 01-212 0017 or 01-212 6474.


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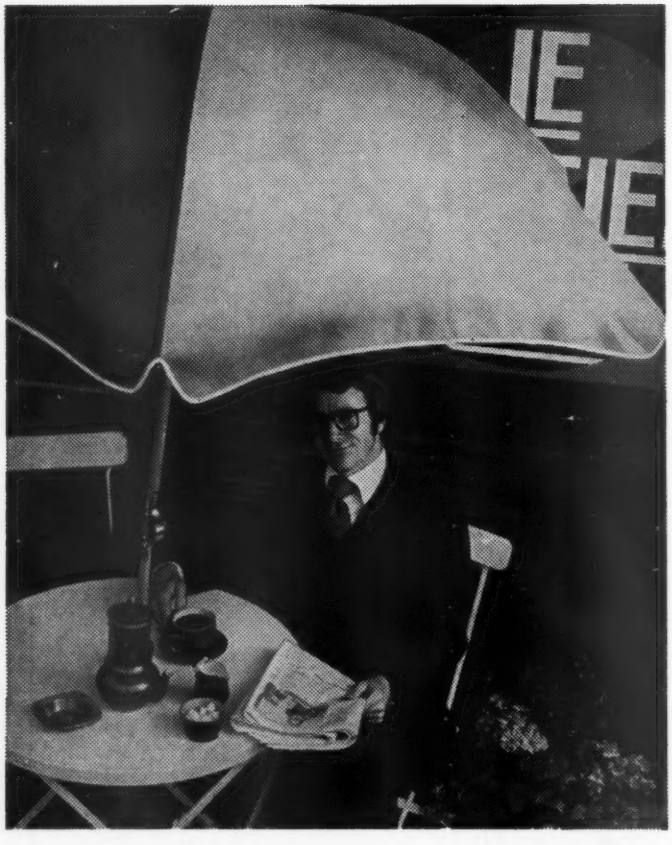

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